

①
86 1554

No. 86-

Supreme Court, U.S.
FILED

MAR 2 1987

JOSEPH F. SPANIOL, JR.
CLERK

IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States
OCTOBER TERM, 1986

CYRIL J. SMITH, JR.,

Petitioner,

vs.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Respondent.

**PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO
THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST
SUPREME JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

MARK D. WILSON
Attorney for Petitioner
ENGEL, JONES & WILSON
Three Riverway, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 965-0404



**PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE
COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST SUPREME
JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

The Petitioner, Cyril J. Smith, Jr., prays that a Writ of Certiorari be issued to review the decision of the Court of Appeals for the First Supreme Judicial District of the State of Texas in his case.

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- 1) Did the search of a locked container, a bank bag which the police knew belonged to Petitioner, violate the 4th and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution, whether that search was incident to the execution of a search and arrest warrant for Petitioner's roommate at their shared residence?
- 2) In a criminal case, does a State deny a Defendant his due process right to present a defense by refusing to provide limited use immunity to a defense witness possessed of material and exculpatory testimony and whom the State has otherwise shown no interest in prosecuting?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TABLE OF AUTHORITIES	iii
OPINIONS BELOW	1
JURISDICTION	1
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS INVOLVED	1,2,3
STATEMENT OF THE CASE	3
REASONS FOR REVIEW	6

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

CASES:	Page
<i>Adley v. State</i> , 718 S.W.2d 682 (Tex.Cr.App. 1985)	3
<i>Allstate Mortgage Corp., v. U.S.</i> , 507 F.2d 492 (7th Cir. 1974)	7
<i>Autry v. McKaskle</i> , 104 S.Ct. 1458 (1984)	6
<i>Brady v. Maryland</i> , 83 S.Ct. 1194 (1963)	7,9
<i>Broady, State v.</i> 321 N.E.2d 890 (Ohio 1974)	6,9
<i>Carman, U.S. v.</i> 577 F.2d 556 (9th Cir. 1978) ...	7
<i>Earl v. U.S.</i> , 361 F.2d 531 (D.C. Cir. 1966)	7
<i>Fuentes v. State</i> , 662 S.W.2d 19 (Tex.App. 1st Dist. 1983)	8
<i>Kastigar v. U.S.</i> , 92 S.Ct. 1653 (1972)	8
<i>Klauber, U.S. v.</i> 611 F.2d 512 (4th Cir. 1979) cert. den. 100 S.Ct. 1835 (1980)	7
<i>Lenz, U.S. v.</i> , 616 F.2d 960 (6th Cir. 1980)	7
<i>Norman v. State</i> , 588 S.W.2d 340 (Tex.Cr.App. 1979)	7-8
<i>Pillsbury v. Conboy</i> , 103 S.Ct. 608 (1983)	6
<i>Ross v. State</i> , 486 S.W.2d 327 (Tex.Cr.App. 1972)	5,7
<i>Shorthouse, Ex parte</i> , 640 S.W.2d 924 (Tex.Cr.App. 1982)	8
<i>Simmons v. U.S.</i> , 88 S.Ct. 967 (1968)	8
<i>Smith v. State</i> , 708 S.W.2d 518 (Tex.App. 1st Dist. 1986)	1,5,6,8
<i>Stone v. Powell</i> , 96 S.Ct. 3037 (1976)	10
<i>Taylor v. State</i> , 638 S.W.2d 602 (Tex.App. 5th Dist. 1982)	8
<i>Texas v. Brown</i> , 103 S.Ct. 1535 (1983)	9
<i>Washington v. Texas</i> , 87 S.Ct. 1920 (1967)	8,9
<i>Whitmore v. State</i> , 570 S.W.2d 889 (Tex.Cr.App. 1977)	5

Table of Authorities Continued

	Page
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS:	
U.S. Constitution, Fourth Amendment	1,8
U.S. Constitution, Fifth Amendment	1,4,8
U.S. Constitution, Sixth Amendment	1,5
U.S. Constitution, Fourteenth Amendment	1,5
STATUTES AND COURT RULES:	
Ver. Ann. Tex. St., Art. 4476-15 § 4.04(b)	4
Ver. Ann. C. Cr. Proc., Art. 2.01	7
Ver. Ann. C. Cr. Proc., Art. 12.01(4)	5
28 U.S.C. § 1257(3)	1
Sup. Ct. R. 20.4	1
TEXTS AND ARTICLES:	
<i>Defense Witness Immunity and the Right to a Fair Trial</i> , 129 University of Pennsylvania Law Review 337 (1980)	7
4 A.L.R. 617 (4th Edition)	6

OPINIONS BELOW

No written opinion was rendered by the 184th District Court of Harris County, Texas on the issue of the legality of the search. A written order was issued by this Court denying the Petitioner's Motion for Defense Witness Immunity (R.I. 27, Appendix, p. 6a).

By opinion dated February 27, 1986, the Court of Appeals for the First Supreme Judicial District affirmed the Petitioner's conviction. (Appendix, p. 1a). Timely Petition for Rehearing was denied on April 17, 1986. A timely Petition to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals for discretionary review was subsequently filed and denied on October 15, 1986. A timely Motion for Rehearing was denied on December 30, 1986. The opinion of the Court of Appeals, styled *Cyril J. Smith, Jr. v. The State of Texas* is found at 708 S.W.2d 518.

JURISDICTION

This case is presented to the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1257(3) for denial of Petitioner's rights arising under the Constitution. The Petition for Rehearing in the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas was denied on December 30, 1986, ending the proceedings in that Court. This Petition is, therefore, timely filed pursuant to Sup.Ct.R 20.4.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS INVOLVED

AMENDMENT 4

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no

warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.

AMENDMENT 5

No person shall be held to answer for a capital or other infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

AMENDMENT 6

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

AMENDMENT 14

Section 1

All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of

the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This case arose as a result of the execution of a warrant to search the residence of John Lampis for evidence of the promotion of gambling¹ at 2610 Yoakum Boulevard (R.II, 216-241). No warrant was ever obtained for the search of Petitioner's part of the residence (R.II, 9-10).

The warrant in this case authorized the search of 2610 Yoakum and the arrest of John Lampis (R.I. (Supp), 113). Upon execution of the warrant, the police found and arrested the Petitioner, Cyril Smith, who identified himself (R.II, 113). During the search which followed, the officers found a locked bank bag with Smith's name on it and in Smith's bedroom closet (R.II, 125). The officers asked who the bag belonged to and were informed that it belonged to the Petitioner (R.II, 123). However, the key to the bag was in the possession of Ellen Claire O'Connell, who also shared the residence and who was not on the scene at the time the officers desired to open the bag (R.II, 124).

¹ Not long after which the Court of Criminal Appeals declared the promotion of gambling statute to be unconstitutionally vague. *Adley v. State*, 718 S.W.2d 682 (Tex.Cr.App. 1985).

One of the officers involved in the search then cut open the bag with a pocket knife and a quantity of cocaine was found which formed the basis for the present prosecution (R.II, 125).²

These and other facts were developed at a hearing on Petitioner's Motion to Suppress³ (R.I., 10, R.II, R.III) which the trial judge overruled (R.III, 78).

During the trial which followed, the Petitioner attempted to obtain the testimony of two eye witnesses to the case, Ellen Claire O'Connell (R.VIII, 206-213) and John Lampis (R.VII 197-204). A motion to immunize these two witnesses was filed (R.I., 25). Both witnesses claimed their rights under the fifth amendment after they were advised that their testimony might be used to prosecute them (R.VII, 207-208, R.XII, 11). Petitioner's request to have the witnesses immunized was overruled by the trial court (R.I, 27, Appendix, p. 6a).

The Petitioner was on federal probation at the time these events occurred and after his trial in the State Court, the government filed a motion to revoke the probation in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Cr. No. H-3-79-326M. The

² A small amount of cocaine was also found on the coffee table of the living room. Had the cocaine found in the bank bag been suppressed, the amount of cocaine would have been less than 28 grams with a consequent reduction in penalty exposure. V.A.T.S., Art. 4476-15, Section 4.04(b). See remarks of Judge Weaver, Supplemental record at p. 108-109.

³ Both Judge Price and Judge Weaver conducted hearings on the suppression motion, however, only Judge Price issued a ruling. Judge Price issued his ruling only after advising Petitioner that he did not wish to hear further argument and inviting him to present his claims to a higher court. *Id.*

Honorable Calvin Botley, United States Magistrate, heard the government's motion which alleged violation of the conditions of probation on the basis of the substantive facts of the state court criminal prosecution. At this hearing, Magistrate Botley conducted an in camera examination of Ellen Claire O'Connell and after completion of the hearing, overruled the government's motion to revoke and ordering Petitioner discharged from probation. (Appendix, p. 3a).⁴

In his appeal to the Texas Court of Appeals, Petitioner contended that the denial of immunity for his defense witnesses deprived him of his rights under the 6th amendment complusory process clause, and the 14th amendment due process and equal protection clauses (Brief of Appellant at p. 2). The Court of Appeals rejected these contentions in a published opinion. *Smith v. State*, 708 S.W.2d 518 (Tex.App. 1st Dist. 1986). The Court's decision is based on the notion that defense witness immunity is not provided by state law. *Rose v. State*, 486 S.W.2d 327 (Tex.Cr.App. 1972).

The Petitioner also challenged the validity of the search on the 4th Amendment grounds that it invaded his individual right to privacy in both the Court of

⁴ The indictment alleges the offense occurred on October 16, 1982 (R.I., Supp., 6). Because O'Connell was never charged with the offense, the statute of limitations on the offense has run, Article 12.01(4) V.A.C.C.P., and the witness, who was previously granted in camera "immunity" by the federal court, is now available to testify. Under current state law, such newly available evidence may serve as a basis for a new trial, event at this late date. *Whitmore v. State*, 570 S.W.2d 889 (Tex.Cr.App. 1977).

Appeals (Brief, p. 13) and Court of Criminal Appeals (Motion for Rehearing, p. 5). The Court of Appeals declined to review the issue because no authority was cited to show that Petitioner was not covered by the warrant, and because the Court overlooked certain evidence in the record showing Petitioner did in fact maintain a separate residence. 708 S.W.2d at 524. The Court of Criminal Appeals overruled these contentions without comment.

REASONS FOR REVIEW

The Court has never passed on the issue of defense witness immunity. *Pillsbury v. Conboy*, 103 S.Ct. 608 at 621 (1983). As a result, a mirad of conflicting opinions have arisen in the various jurisdictions relating to the issue.⁵ The decision of the Texas Appellate Court in this case is in conflict with a line of third circuit cases cited by Judge Marshall in his dissent in *Autry v. McKaskle*, 104 S.Ct. 1458 (1984), and as observed by Judge Marshall in that dissent, a conflict in the federal circuits exists with respect to whether due process ever requires the grant of immunity to a witness who possesses exculpatory evidence for the defense.

The Texas Appellate Court decision is also contrary to the decision of the Circuit Court of Ohio, *State v. Broady*, 321 N.E.2d 890 (1974), wherein the Court, relying on a state statute which places a duty on the

⁵ In the event this Court grants the writ, a brief showing in detail what each of the jurisdictions have held will be submitted. For a glimpse of these diverse views, see the cases collected under 4 A.L.R.4th 617.

prosecution to disclose exculpatory evidence, held that limited use immunity should have been granted to a defense witness. The Ohio statute in *Broady* is nearly identical in its language to a corresponding Texas statute, Article 2.01 V.A.C.C.P. Both statutes codify the principles set down by this Court in *Brady v. Maryland*, 83 S.Ct. 1194 (1963). Because the grant or denial of witness immunity has traditionally been viewed as being within the exclusive discretion of the prosecution, Courts have held that a Defendant has no standing to seek immunity for a defense witness. *U.S. v. Lenz*, 616 F.2d 960 (6th Cir. 1980); *U.S. v. All State Mortgage Corp.*, 507 F.2d 492 (7th Cir. 1974). In the granddaddy⁶ of defense witness immunity cases, the Circuit for the District of Columbia held that refusing to grant a defense witness immunity does not implicate *Brady* type considerations. *Earl v. United States*, 361 F.2d 531 (D.C. Cir. 1966). Other Courts have vaguely suggested that once a Defendant establishes a need for witness immunity, refusal by the government to grant immunity may implicate *Brady*. *United States v. Klauber*, 611 F.2d 512 (4th Cir. 1979), cert. den. 100 S.Ct. 1835 (1980); *United States v. Carman*, 577 F.2d 556 (9th Cir. 1978).

The absence of this Court's guidance on the issue has resulted in confusion, even within Texas' own jurisprudence. Compare *Ross v. State*, supra, 486 S.W.2d 327 (Tex.Cr.App. 1972) [Court without power to grant defense request for immunity of witness] with *Norman v. State*, 588 S.W.2d 340 (Tex.Cr.App.

⁶ *Defense Witness Immunity and the Right to a Fair Trial*, 129 University of Pennsylvania Law Review, p. 337 (1980).

1979) [Failure to grant defense request for immunity was error of constitutional magnitude].⁷

This Court previously established a judicially conferred immunity for the Defendant who testifies at a hearing on a motion to suppress evidence. *Simmons v. United States*, 88 S.Ct. 967 (1968). This form of immunity amounts to an exclusionary rule which prohibits a Defendant's suppression hearing testimony from being used against him at his subsequent trial. This form of immunity is akin to use immunity which Courts have held is all that is required under the Constitution to override the Fifth Amendment privilege of a witness who refuses to testify. *Kastigar v. United States*, 92 S.Ct. 1653 (1972); *Ex parte Short-house*, 640 S.W.2d 924 (Tex.Cr.App. 1982). The Court in *Simmons* found the grant of such immunity necessary to effectuate the Defendant's fourth amendment rights.

In *Washington v. Texas*, 87 S.Ct. 1920 (1967), this Court struck down as violative of the sixth amendment right to compulsory process, state laws that prohibited participants in a crime from testifying on behalf of a coparticipant. The Court broadly construed the compulsory process clause as the right "to present a defense, the right to present the Defendant's version of the facts as well as the prosecution's to the jury so it may decide where the truth lies." *Id.* at 1925.

⁷ Texas Intermediate Appellate Courts to consider the issue have followed the *Ross* rational, and the *Norman* case under the issue has never been addressed by them. *Taylor v. State*, 638 S.W.2d 602 (Tex.App. 5th Dist. 1982); *Fuentes v. State*, 662 S.W.2d 19 (Tex. App. 1st Dist. 1983); and *Smith v. State*, supra.

Weighing the principles of *Brady* and *Washington* together when considered in light of the logistics of *Simmons*, one can not but believe that this Court will, at some date, address the issue and opt for some form of defense witness immunity. The Courts firm establishment of such a remedy would be in full accord with the principle of equal justice which was best described by the Ohio Court in *Broady, supra*:

Justice would seem to require that immunity from prosecution based solely upon the testimony of a witness should not be denied solely because such testimony would tend to exonerate a defendant in a criminal case, and be granted only when such testimony would tend to convict the defendant.

321 N.E.2d 890 at 895.

The present case offers an excellent opportunity for this Court to explicate the law on this issue.

As to Petitioner's Fourth Amendment claim, Certiorari should be granted because the Court of Appeals decision conflicts with this Court's holding in *Texas v. Brown*, 103 S.Ct. 1535 where it is stated at 1546:

All of these cases, however, demonstrate that the constitutionality of a container search is not automatically determined by the constitutionality of the prior search. See *Chadwick, supra*, 433 U.S. at 13-14 n.8, 97 S.Ct., at 2484-2485, n.8; *Sanders, supra*, 442 U.S. at 761-762, 99 S.Ct., at 2591-2592. Separate inquiries are necessary, taking into account the separate interests at stake.

If a movable container is in plain view, seizure does not implicate any privacy interests. There-

fore, if there is probable cause to believe it contains contraband, the owner's possessory interest in the container must yield to society's interest in making sure the contraband does not vanish during the time it would take to obtain a warrant. The item may be seized temporarily. It does not follow, however, that the container may be opened on the spot. Once the container is in custody, there is no risk that evidence will be destroyed. Some inconvenience to the officer is entailed by requiring him to obtain a warrant before opening the container, but that alone does not excuse the duty to go before a neutral magistrate. *Johnson v. United States*, 333 U.S. 10, 15, 68 S.Ct. 367, 369, 92 L. Ed. 436 (1948); *McDonald v. United States*, 335 U.S. 451, 455, 69 S.Ct. 191, 193, 93 L. Ed. 153 (1948). As Justice POWELL emphasizes, *ante*, at 1544, the Warrant Clause embodies our government's historical commitment to bear the burden of inconvenience. Exigent circumstances must be shown before the Constitution will entrust an individual's privacy to the judgment of a single police officer.

In the present case, the Texas Courts never addressed whether the opening of the locked container implicated the Petitioner's individual privacy rights. Under the doctrine of this Court's holding in *Stone v. Powell*, 96 S.Ct. 3037 (1976) the opportunity to ever obtain a ruling on the merits of this issue will be forever lost if this Honorable Court does not grant the writ.

For these reasons, the Court is urged to grant the writ prayed for.

Respectfully submitted,

ENGEL, JONES & WILSON, P.C.

MARK D. WILSON

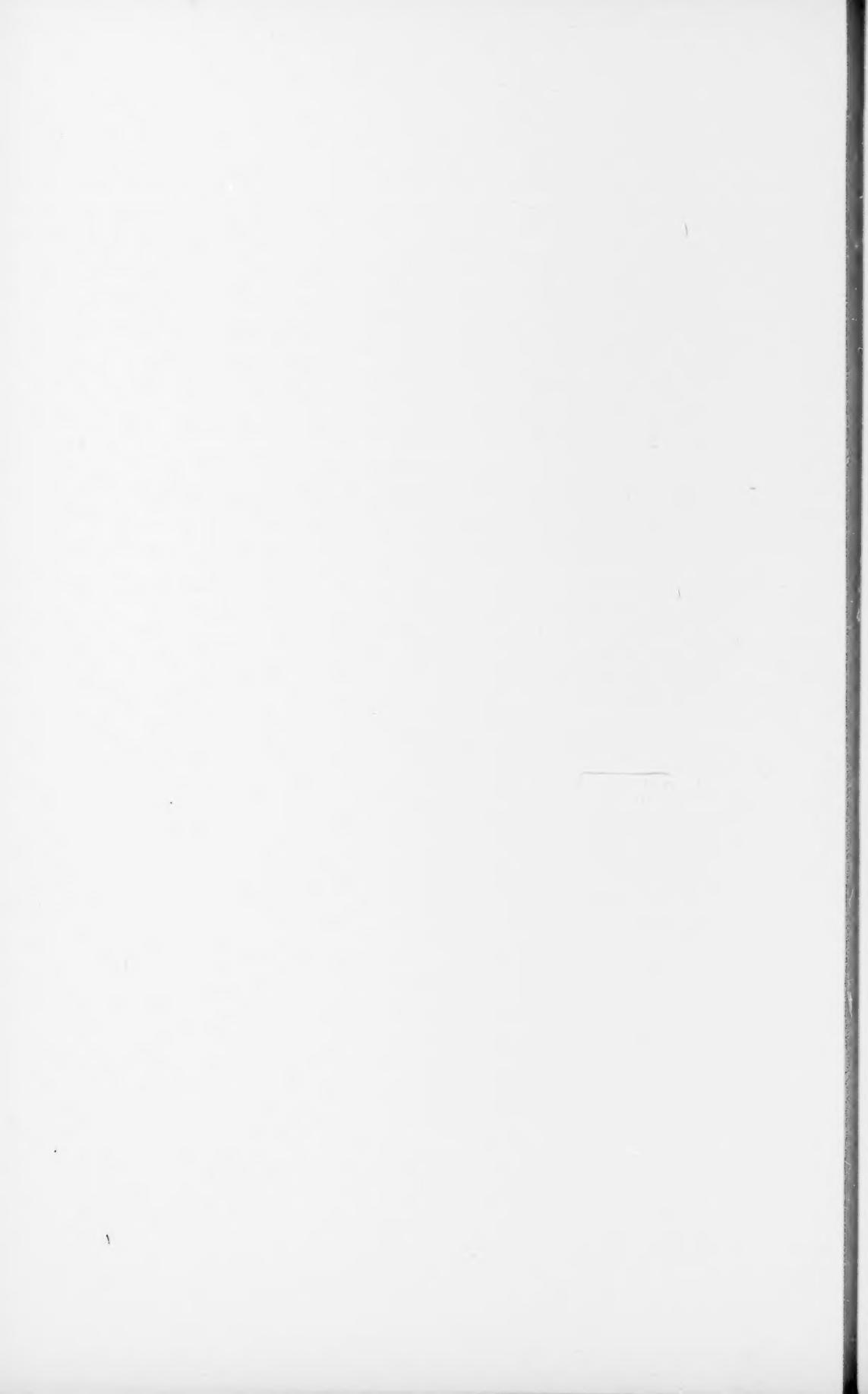
SB#: 21704500

Three Riverway, Suite 1500

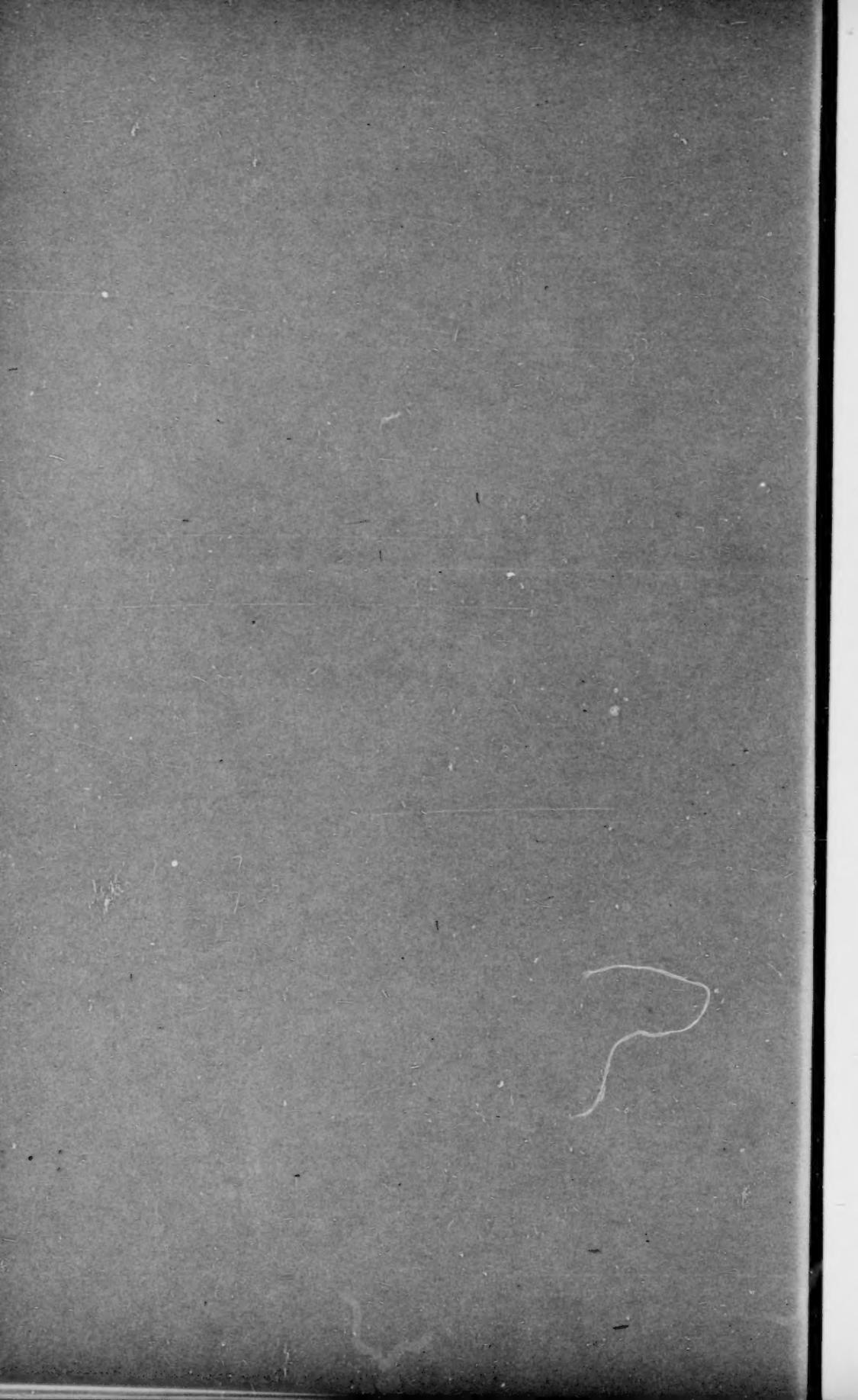
Houston, Texas 77056

(713) 965-0404

Attorney For Petitioner



APPENDIX



Cause No. 01-84-0056-CR

In The Court of Appeals
For the First Supreme Judicial District
of Texas at Houston

CYRIL J. SMITH,

Appellant,

vs.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Appellee.

[FILED AUGUST 13, 1985]

Motion To Supplement The Record On Appeal

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Comes now, James A. Moore, Attorney for Appellant Cyril J. Smith and files this Motion to Supplement the Record on Appeal and as grounds for same would show unto the Court as follows:

The Defendant was sentenced in this cause on November 11, 1983. The Defendant was on federal misdemeanor probation since January 24, 1980. From the 22nd day of February, 1984 and continuing until February 27, 1984 the United States Motion to Revoke Probation was heard by the Honorable Calvin Botley, United States Magistrate. On February 27, 1984 after hearing several days of testimony Judge Botley issued a "finding that the petition to revoke probation should not be granted." "It further orders that Cyril Smith be discharged from probation this date." A copy of said order is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

During that hearing Ellen Clare O'Connell was called to Judge Botley's chambers and her testimony was taken "in camera". Witness O'Connell was represented by Attorney William Habern at this hearing. I now have rea-

son, to believe and do believe that there exists a record of Judge Botley's "in camera" examination of witness O'Connell's testimony which completely shows my client, Cyril Smith, to be innocent of the offense of which he has been convicted and sentenced to seven years confinement. (See affidavit of Cyril J. Smith attached hereto as Exhibit "B".)

I must now file this motion to supplement this record to avoid a gross injustice in this case.

It is requested that this Court obtain a copy of said transcript of O'Connell's testimony from the United States Magistrate Court, "in camera", if necessary, and incorporate it into this record on appeal. Or, alternatively, this Court order the 184th District Court of Harris County, Texas is requested to conduct a hearing and if it becomes necessary to allow said transcript be subpoenaed, filed with that Court and forwarded to the Court of Appeals and supplemented into this record. The Defendant's brief on appeal is incorporated herein for all purposes in support of this Motion. To fail to act by the Court denies the Appellant effective assistance of Counsel, due process of law, equal protection of laws and suppresses direct *Brady v. Maryland* material.

Wherefore, premises considered, the Appellant prays that this Motion to Supplement the Record an appeal be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ JAMES A. MOORE
JAMES A. MOORE
Attorney For Appellant
1111 Post Oak Blvd., #226
Houston, Texas 77056
713/622-9216
State Bar No. 14348000

EXHIBIT "A"

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

Cr.No. H-3-79-326M

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
vs.**

CYRIL J. SMITH, JR.

JUDGMENT AND ORDER

On or about the 22nd day of February, 1984, and continuing until February 27, 1984, the defendant herein, Cyril J. Smith, Jr., in proper person and by counsel, James Moore, appeared before the Court for violations of conditions of the defendant's probation as imposed by the Judgment of this Honorable Court on January 24, 1980, wherein the Court ordered that the defendant be committed to the custody of the Attorney General or his authorized representative for imprisonment for a period of one (1) year and the defendant shall pay a fine of \$1,000.00 as to each of Counts 1 through 3, to run consecutive to each other, execution of which was suspended and the defendant placed on probation, with supervision, for a period of three (3) years. The Court further ordered that the defendant pay the \$3,000.00 fine during the term of probation at such times and in such amounts as will be worked out under the direction of the U.S. Probation Office. On June 12, 1980, the defendant paid the fine in full. On January 24, 1980, the defendant was placed on unsupervised probation with the condition that he violate no laws.

The alleged violations of probation were that:

1. On October 16, 1982, the probationer was arrested by Houston Vice Police Officers and charged with gambling promotion and possession of a controlled substance. On October 10, 1983, a jury of the 184th District Court in Harris County, Texas, found Cyril J. Smith, Jr., guilty of unlawfully, intentionally, and knowingly possessing a controlled substance, namely cocaine. On November 10, 1983, the Court sentenced Cyril J. Smith, Jr., to serve seven (7) years in the Texas Department of Corrections.

The Court, on February 27, 1984, after hearing several days of testimony, issued a finding that the petition to revoke probation should not be granted. It further orders that Cyril Smith be discharged from probation as of this date.

/s/ CALVIN BOTLEY
CALVIN BOTLEY
United States Magistrate

EXHIBIT "B"

**State of Texas
County of Harris**

Before me the undersigned authority on this day appeared Cyril J. Smith who upon his oath stated the following:

I am Cyril J. Smith, Appellant in cause number 01-84-0056-CR styled Cyril J. Smith v. The State of Texas pending before the First Court of Appeals. I have been advised by Ellen Clare O'Connell that she told United States Magistrate Calvin Botley under oath that I did not possess the cocaine for which I have been convicted and that she told him who did. While I was reviewing the brief to be filed this date by my attorney James A. Moore, I advised him of this situation and he asked me to prepare this affidavit.

/s/ CYRIL J. SMITH
CYRIL J. SMITH

Sworn to and subscribed before me the undersigned authority on this the 13th day of August 1985.

/s/ UNREADABLE
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for
Harris County, Texas
My Commission expires:
7-14-86

[Certificate of Service Omitted in Printing]

NO. 366,410

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
184TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
THE STATE OF TEXAS,
vs.

CYRIL J. SMITH,

[FILED OCTOBER 6, 1983]

MOTION FOR GRANT OF IMMUNITY
FOR DEFENSE WITNESSES

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Cyril J. Smith, Defendant in the above and entitled cause and files this *Motion for Grant of Immunity for Defense Witnesses* and as grounds for same would respectfully show unto the Court as follows:

The testimony concerning the appearance of defense witnesses John J. Lampis, and Ellen Clare O'Connell on the afternoon of October 5, 1983 is referred to and incorporated herein.

The Sixth Amendment "compulsory process clause" guarantees a defendant the right to have the attendance and testimony of witnesses in his behalf. *Chambers v. Mississippi*, 410 US 284.

The Courts have recognized the defendants' right to compulsory testimony under a grant of immunity under certain limited circumstances, where:

- (1) The witness' testimony is essential to an effective defense.
- (2) The witness is available to testify.
- (3) The testimony sought is "clearly exculpatory", and
- (4) There is no showing of "strong governmental" interests against the grant of immunity;

U.S. v. Morrison, 535 F.2d 233 (3rd Cir. 1966); *Virgin Islands v. Smith*, 615 F.2d 964 (3rd. Cir. 1980); *U.S. v. DePalma*, 476 F.Supp. 775 (S.D.N.Y. 1979).

In this cause

(1) The testimony of Lampis and O'Connell are essential to an effective defense.

(2) Both are under subpoena and in Court.

(3) Their testimony is "clearly exculpatory" for defendant Smith and will be exhibited at a hearing hereunder.

(4) The State has not filed charges against either witnesses for approximately one year since the offense and both are in equal or very similar position to Defendant Smith as to possession of the cocaine found at 2610 Yoakum on October 16, 1982.

It has been held that as between the two a witness Fifth Amendment right to remain silent takes precedence over Defendants Sixth Amendment right to compel his testimony. *U.S. v. Goodwin*, 625 F.2d 693 (5th Cir. 1980).

Where a witness seeks to be excused from testifying on the basis that his testimony will violate his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination, the Fifth Circuit has developed the practice whereby, outside the presence of the jury, the trial judge examines the witness to determine whether reasonable grounds exist to uphold the privilege. *U.S. v. Sheikh*, 654 F.2d 1054, at p. 1072 (5th Cir. 1981); *U.S. v. Goodwin*, 608 F.2d 147 (5th Cir. 1980). It is the assertion of the privilege coupled with the court's in camera determination that will exonerate a witness from testifying. *U.S. v. Sheikh*, *supra*, at p. 1072.

To sustain the privilege and excuse a witness from testifying the court must find that the claimant, "is confronted by substantial and real . . . hazards of incrimination." *U.S. v. Apfelbaum*, 390 U.S. 39 (1980).

Where the witness' answers "might be used against him in any subsequent criminal proceeding invocation of the Fifth Amendment privilege would justify excusing the testimony." In re *Corregated Container Antitrust Litigation*, 644 F.2d 70 (5th Cir. 1981).

As to the Supreme Court noted in *U.S. v. Hoffman*, 341 U.S. 479 (1951), "to sustain the privilege, it need only be evident from the implications of the question . . . that a responsive answer . . . might be dangerous because injurious disclosure could result."

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Defendant moves the Court to conduct a hearing and thereafter grant witnesses Lampis and O'Connell immunity to insure the Defendants right to equal protection of law and due process. *Webb v. Texas*, 409 U.S. 95.

—Respectfully submitted,

/s/ JAMES A. MOORE
JAMES A. MOORE

215 Roy
Houston, Texas 77007
(713) 869-1427
State Bar No. 14348000

Attorney for Defendant

AFFIDAVIT**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HARRIS**

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared ELLEN CLAIRE O'CONNELL, who upon her oath deposed and said as follows:

My name is ELLEN CLAIRE O'CONNELL. In October of 1982, Cyril Smith, Jr. was arrested for possession of cocaine. At the time of Cyril's arrest, he and I lived together at 2610 Yoakum Boulevard in Houston, Texas. It was at this address that the cocaine alleged to be Cyril's was found.

At the time of Cyril's trial I was called to testify for him but took the fifth amendment on the advice of my attorney. At the time of the trial, I very much wanted to testify on Cyril's behalf however, Kay Burkhalter, the assistant district attorney trying the case, emphatically informed me that if I testified, I would be indicted for possession of cocaine. Because of this treat, and based upon the advice of my attorney, I refused to testify at Cyril's trial.

I have now been informed by Mark Wilson (one of Cyril Smith's attorneys) that the statute of limitations has run on possession of the cocaine found in October of 1982 at 2610 Yoakum Boulevard in Houston, Texas. Because I can no longer be prosecuted in this matter, I am now willing to testify to the true facts concerning this case. I am now willing to testify through this affidavit, at a Motion for New Trial, or if need be, at a new trial for Cyril Smith, Jr.

The information that I have would completely exonerate Cyril Smith, Jr. with reference to the possession of cocaine charge. The cocaine found at 2610 Yoakum Boulevard did not belong to Cyril Smith, Jr. In fact, he had no knowledge

that the cocaine was present in the apartment. The cocaine found in the bedroom of the residence was mine.

I believe my testimony would have been very persuasive to the jury had I not been persuaded not to testify by Kay Burkhalter and my attorney.

All of the above facts are true and correct so help me God.

SIGNED this 15th day of February, 1987.

/s/ ELLEN CLAIRE O'CONNELL
ELLEN CLAIRE O'CONNELL

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me on this the 15th day of February, 1987, by the said ELLEN CLAIRE O'CONNELL, witness my hand and official seal.

/s/ RHONDA L. ALLEN
Notary Public - State of Texas
Printed name: Rhonda L. Allen
Commission expires: 10/28/88



86 - 1554 (2)

No. 86-

Supreme Court, U.S.
FILED

MAR 2 1987

JOSEPH F. SPANIOL, JR.
CLERK

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States
OCTOBER TERM, 1986

CYRIL J. SMITH, JR.,

Petitioner,

VS.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Respondent.

**On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari
to the Court of Appeals for the
First Supreme Judicial District of Texas**

SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIX

MARK D. WILSON
Attorney for Petitioner
ENGEL, JONES & WILSON
Three Riverway, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 965-0404

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Appellant's Petition for Discretionary Review— Filed 5/20/86 (Postcard)	1a
Appellant's Motion for Rehearing—Filed 10/30/86 (Postcard)	2a
Appellant's Motion for Rehearing denied 12/30/86 (Postcards)	3a-4a
Smith v. State, 703 S.W.2d 518 (Tex.App. 1st Dist. 1986)	5a-15a
Whitmore v. State, 570 S.W.2d 889 (Tex.Cr.App. 1977)	16a-51a

**OFFICIAL NOTICE
COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS**

RE: Case No. 0561-86
STYLE : Smith, Cyril T., Jr.

May 20, 1986

I have this day received and filed the Appellant's petition for discretionary review.

COA#: 01-84-00056-CR

Thomas Lowe, Clerk

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
P.O. BOX 12308, CAPITAL STATION
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

MAIL TO: James A. Moore
1111 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 226
Houston, TX 77056

**OFFICIAL NOTICE
COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS**

RE: Case No. 0561-86
STYLE: Smith, Cyril T., Jr.

October 30, 1986

ON THIS DAY THE APPELLANT'S MOTION FOR REHEARING WAS RECEIVED AND FILED WITH THIS COURT.

COA#: 01-84-00056-CR

Thomas Lowe, Clerk

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
P.O. BOX 12308, CAPITAL STATION
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

MAIL TO: James A. Moore
P. O. Box 22725
Houston, TX 77227

**OFFICIAL NOTICE
COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS**

RE: Case No. 0561-86

STYLE: Smith, Cyril T., Jr.

December 30, 1986

On this day the Appellant's Motion for Rehearing was denied.

COA#: 01-84-00056-CR

Thomas Lowe, Clerk

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
P.O. BOX 12308, CAPITAL STATION
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

MAIL TO: James A. Moore
P. O. Box 22735
Houston, TX 77227

**OFFICIAL NOTICE
COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS**

RE: Case No. 0561-86
STYLE: Smith, Cyril T., Jr.

December 30, 1986

On this day the Appellant's Motion for Rehearing was denied.

COA#: 01-84-00056-CR

Thomas Lowe, Clerk

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
P.O. BOX 12308, CAPITAL STATION
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

MAIL TO: Mark D. Wilson
1415 Louisiana, Suite 1515
Houston, TX 77002

CYRIL J. SMITH, JR.,

Appellant,

v.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Appellee.

No. 01-84-0056-CR.

Court of Appeals of Texas,
Houston (1st Dist.).

Feb. 27, 1986.

Rehearing Denied April 17, 1986.

Defendant was convicted in the 184th District Court, Harris County, Carroll Weaver, J., of possession of cocaine, and he appealed. The Court of Appeals, Levy, J., held that: (1) trial court's proper refusal to grant immunity to defense witnesses did not deny defendant due process, effective assistance of counsel, or equal protection; (2) defendant did not have standing to raise issue as to whether grand jury subpoena was improper substitute for search warrant with respect to call-forwarding information from telephone company; (3) trial court's refusal to issue attachment or grant continuance by reason of disappearance of witness whom defendant sought to recall was not fundamental error requiring reversal; and (4) cocaine and drug paraphernalia was properly seized under warrant to arrest accomplice "and persons unknown" and to search for gambling paraphernalia.

Affirmed.

James A. Moore, Houston, for appellant.

John B. Holmes, Jr., Harris County Dist. Atty., Timothy G. Taft, Harris County Asst. Dist. Atty., Houston, for appellee.

Before DUGGAN, DUNN and LEVY, JJ.

OPINION

LEVY, Justice.

A jury convicted appellant for possession of cocaine, a controlled substance, and the court assessed punishment at seven years confinement.

On October 16, 1982, officers of the Houston Police Department executed a warrant at 2610 Yoakum Boulevard in Houston, directing them to arrest "John James Lampis and other persons who may be found therein and who may be conducting unlawful gambling activities, to-wit, bookmaking, or who may be in the unlawful possession of gambling paraphernalia." They were commanded to search for and seize "any and all gambling paraphernalia."

Upon announcing their presence and entering, the officers discovered Lampis and appellant seated on separate couches with gambling line sheets, betting slips, and other items on a coffee table in front of each. Officers served the warrant and read Miranda warnings. On the coffee table within reach of appellant was found a container containing white powder, later determined to be cocaine, together with a ceramic straw within which was some residual powder. Search of the premises revealed in appellant's bedroom closet a locked bank bag with appellant's business card on it, found next to a set of scales. The officers brought the bag downstairs to appellant and asked if it was his, to which appellant responded affirmatively. They inquired if he had a key. He responded that it was on a ring with his car keys and that his fiancee, Ellen Clare O'Connell, had taken the car earlier that morning. The officer indicated that he would have to open the bag. There is some dispute as to whether appellant expressly consented. An officer then cut open the bag with a knife. The bag was found to contain, among other items, a large quantity of cash, some small ziplock baggies in an envelope with appellant's name on it, more ceramic straws, white powder (later determined to be cocaine), a man's gold iden-

tification bracelet with appellant's name on it, and a man's diamond ring.

By his first ground, appellant contends that the trial court erred in refusing to allow him to call defense witnesses Lampis and O'Connell to the stand and in refusing to grant them immunity from prosecution on the basis of such testimony, potentially exculpatory to the appellant.

The basis for this contention is not clear. However, the gist of his argument asserts denial of effective assistance of counsel, due process, and equal protection of the law, although appellant concedes that a witness's Fifth Amendment protection from self-incrimination takes precedence over a defendant's Sixth Amendment right to compel such testimony. Appellant asserts that his rights would have been adequately protected by granting immunity or by allowing the witnesses to invoke their Fifth Amendment rights before the jury.

In Texas, the form of immunity suggested by appellant is governed by statute under which the court could not have granted such immunity without the joinder of the State. *Ross v. State*, 486 S.W.2d 327, 328-29 (Tex.Crim.App.1972); Tex.CodeCrim.P.Ann. art. 3202 (Vernon 1966).

The appellant did not have the right to interrogate the witness before the jury and have him/her invoke the privilege when each question was asked. *Victoria v. State*, 522 S.W.2d 919, 922 (Tex.Crim.App.1975). Therefore, it was "not error for the trial court to refuse appellant's motion to have the witnesses invoke the Fifth Amendment in the presence of the jury." *Mendoza v. State*, 552 S.W.2d 444, 450 (Tex.Crim.App.1977); *Rodriguez v. State*, 513 S.W.2d 594, 596 (Tex.Crim.App.1974). The court's permitting such repetitive conduct would have been both unnecessarily protracted and improper. See *Mendoza*, 552 S.W.2d at 450.

The record reflects that both witnesses, represented by counsel, testified out of the jury's presence that they would,

if called to testify, invoke the Fifth Amendment to each and every question. Counsel also testified that he would advise them to continue to take the Fifth Amendment. Because the privilege was clearly asserted, we perceive no error. *See Victoria*, 522 S.W.2d at 922.

Appellant further alleges that the witnesses were prevented from testifying by the force, threats, and fraud of the State's Assistant District Attorney. The record indicates that the State's attorney declared that she would have sought an indictment for possession of cocaine if a witness's testimony amounted to a judicial confession providing probable cause for a charge. There is no indication of record that any force or fraud was used or any threats made beyond that of prosecution in a proper case. Although the record reflects that both the prosecutor and defense counsel at times embraced the adversarial system with a zeal bordering on mutual hostility, the record does not otherwise support appellant's allegations.

In view of the competing interests of the Fifth and Sixth Amendments, we cannot conclude that appellant was denied due process, effective assistance of counselor, or equal protection by the trial court's proper refusal to grant immunity. Appellant's first ground is accordingly overruled.

In his second ground, appellant complains of the Court's refusal to submit charges offered by the defense on non-exclusive possession.

Although appellant cites no supporting authority, the State points out that in *Gordon v. State*, 686 S.W.2d 241 (Tex.App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1985, pet. ref'd), an almost identical charge was properly refused. There the Court held that the "requested instruction singled out favorable testimony to himself and, as such, constituted a comment on the weight of the evidence," *id.* at 243, which is not proper. *See Hawkins v. State*, 656 S.W.2d 70, 73 (Tex.Crim.App.1983).

Appellant's alternative proffer that "possession may be joint or constructive" adds nothing. Joint possession could nevertheless result in appellant's conviction, but failure to find joint possession would not preclude conviction. See, e.g., *Curtis v. State*, 519 S.W.2d 883, 885 (Tex.Crim.App.1975). The proffered definition appears to address the potential co-extensive culpability of Lampis or O'Connell, neither of whom were tried in this cause. We are unable to determine the error alleged by refusal of this requested charge or that it was "Calculated to injure the rights of the defendant," requiring reversal. See *Almanza v. State* 686 S.W.2d 157, 171 (Tex.Crim.App.1984). We overrule the second ground.

By his third ground of error, appellant asserts that the indictment should have been dismissed. The thrust of this contention is alleged misuse of the subpoena powers of the grand jury to obtain evidence during the investigation, and absence of evidence presented to the grand jury. Specifically, he challenges evidence relating to call-forwarding information obtained from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

The record is extensively developed by the expert testimony of a Southwestern Bell employee, by the testimony of the State's Assistant District Attorney who signed the subpoena, and by the prosecutor. The State's attorneys testified unequivocally that no *testimony* was presented to the grand jury, but that evidence was presented as contained in the offense reports.

In *Tarpley v. State*, 565 S.W.2d 525 (Tex.Crim.App.1978), the Court of Criminal Appeals held:

This Court will not go behind the actions of the grand jury to determine whether sufficient evidence existed to justify the return of an indictment. Were we to accept appellant's claim that evidence was presented to the grand jury by the district attorney alone, such would not constitute reversible error. An indictment

returned by a legally constituted and unbiased grand jury, if valid on its face, is enough to call for trial of the charge on the merits.

Id. at 532 (citations omitted); see also *Crocker v. State*, 573 S.W.2d 190, 204 (Tex.Crim.App.1978). The record does not support appellant's contention that no evidence was presented. It affirmatively reflects that no *testimony* was presented, but that the district attorney actually did present evidence.

The call-forwarding information obtained under the grand jury subpoena was the subject of expert testimony. "Call-forwarding" is a service by which a customer may transfer incoming calls to another phone, available for a flat monthly charge. It may be used as often as the customer chooses. No permanent records are kept by the phone company that indicate whether, or how often, the service is activated, or to which number(s) a customer has forwarded calls. The company will record that information only when the security section requests it because the information has been subpoenaed. To obtain the information, a computer is asked to determine if call-forwarding is activated at that precise instant. If the computer determines that the service is activated, further requests must be made to determine the number to which calls are being forwarded. At no time does the computer, through its software, have access to any conversations being held on the line, or indeed to whether the line is occupied at all. "Eavesdropping" is accomplished only through a different mechanical or hardware system. The customer cannot himself obtain any of this information upon request.

In the case at bar, the information was sought for the purpose of determining whether Lampis was conducting alleged bookmaking activities at the service address, or at another location, by activating call-forwarding. Information was reported in the affidavit made the basis of the search warrant that the service was inactive at the times com-

puter verification was made. When verification were executed, they coincided with the times an informant reported placing bets with Lampis at one of the two numbers registered at that address. At those times, the investigative team was also maintaining surveillance at the residence. Their independent observation was that Lampis's car was parked at the townhouse, and they inferred that Lampis was then at that location. Because the computer reported the service inactive on both phones, no further information was sought by or from the phone company.

At the time in question, the telephone number to which appellant asserts his claim was registered to one Henry Mansfield Hunter or his company, Hunter Services. Hunter employer Lampis in his sanitation supply service, and had maintained a residence at the townhouse with Lampis for business purposes. Appellant and Hunter apparently entered into an oral agreement whereby appellant assumed financial liability for the rent and utilities at that address when Hunter moved to San Antonio. The utility companies were not notified of the changes, so that Hunter or his company was the customer for billing purposes, although appellant actually paid the bills.

Information obtained through the grand jury subpoena may be summarized as follows: No "wiretapping" or "eavesdropping" was involved. The phone number was registered to Hunter or his company, so that the property rights, if any, in call-forwarding information were not of record in appellant. Because a customer has no right to the information, the information belongs to the phone company, if indeed it belongs to anyone. When the service is not activated, no property rights are being exercised. The information obtained has, at best, a remote bearing on the appellant's indictment, although it was part of the affidavit for a search warrant and was corroborative of other details set forth therein.

The closest authority available on the subject appears to be *Wood v. State*, 573 S.W.2d 207 (Tex.Crim.App.1978), where a grand jury subpoena was used to obtain information and billing statements from Southwestern Bell on an unlisted phone number registered to a third party. The information so obtained contributed to an exposure of a prostitution ring.¹ The Court of Criminal Appeals held that the defendant had no standing to complain and concluded that she failed to demonstrate that her rights were violated by issuance of the subpoena. *Id.* at 212. The Court noted that even if the grand jury subpoena was an improper substitute for a search warrant, the defendant lacked standing to present such a contention where the records involved did not belong to the defendant. *See id.* at 212.

We therefore overrule the third ground.

By his fourth ground, appellant complains of the trial court's refusal to issue an attachment or grant a continuance by reason of the disappearance of the witness Mary Zalesak, whom appellant sought to recall for additional cross-examination. He cites no authority for his assertion that such refusal was fundamental error requiring reversal.

The witness had testified that she had been employed as a secretary by appellant and his father at a time when appellant was living with his father. She further testified that appellant requested her to locate a "head shop" that sold scales capable of measuring in grams. She stated that she called around and located one. She then stated that she later saw a Visa or Mastercard bill for scales. Out of the presence of the jury, she also testified that appellant's sister was, in essence, out to "get" appellant on the matter of their parents' estates. The trial court held such testimony to be irrelevant. She was further cross-examined within the jury's presence regarding whether she had ever

¹ The record owner apparently did not assert any challenge on this basis. *See Etchieson v. State*, 574 S.W.2d 753 (Tex.Crim.App.1978).

observed appellant possessing or using cocaine, to which she responded in the negative. She was excused subject to recall.

Later in the trial, appellant introduced credit card statements through his accountant. The accountant testified that the bills reflected no purchases of scales.

Appellant's tender of proof demonstrated that he would ask Zalesak to recant her testimony, and then again turned extensively to the question of appellant's sister and the pressure she allegedly was exerting because of the estate contests. The trial court permitted the admission of the credit card statements, but refused the motions for attachment or continuance. The scales admitted into evidence were first located during the search next to the bank bag in which cocaine was found. The appellant contends that such testimony was extremely prejudicial because of the court's refusal to permit further cross-examination.

The record indicates that Zalesak's testimony appears adequately challenged by the statements. Furthermore, other evidence contained on and within the bag along with the cocaine affirmatively linked appellant to the contraband. Zalesak's testimony did not significantly contribute to the prosecutor's case. See *Warren v. State*, 514 S.W.2d 458, 465 (Tex.Crim.App.1974). Finally, appellant fails to demonstrate the relevance or materiality of testimony concerning appellant's sibling rivalry, and cites no authority in support.

Accordingly, the fourth ground is overruled.

By his fifth ground, appellant asserts error in the Court's refusal to suppress evidence seized in the search under authority of a warrant directing officers to arrest Lampis "and persons unknown" and to search for gambling paraphernalia.

The affidavit in support of the warrant is extensive and specific. Even discounting the call-forwarding information contained therein, it appears sufficient to justify issuance of the warrant under Tex.Code.Crim.P.Ann. art. 18.01 (Vernon 1977 and Supp.1986). and art. 18.02 (Vernon Supp.1986).

Testimony indicated that the key to the locked bank bag was on a ring containing appellant's car keys. The car (and the ring) were in the temporary custody of O'Connell at the time the warrant was executed. The officers executing the warrant testified that, in their experience, gambling paraphernalia, specifically line sheets, betting slips, and other bookmaking memoranda, are frequently concealed in all types of containers. When executing the warrant, the officers first observed appellant with similar paraphernalia in front of him in the common areas of the townhouse.

Appellant cites no authority for the contention that he was not covered by the warrant, nor does he cite any authority for the contention that he occupied a separate portion of the residence. His factual premises are unsupported by the record.

The fifth ground is overruled.

By the sixth ground of error, appellant asserts that he was denied effective assistance of counsel, due process, and equal protection of the law by the trial court's denial of a hearing on a motion to disqualify the Assistant District Attorney and refusal of a tender of proof thereafter. Appellant cites no authority for this posture, nor does he offer any plausible basis for the motion.

The many pages of the record preceding the trial court's postponement of any hearing or tender of proof reflect miscommunications, arising apparently from an earlier pre-trial conference not recorded. This failure of communications resulted in gradual escalation of hostilities between

defense counsel and the prosecutor, eventually entangling the trial judge.

The disagreements commenced with an attempt to reach a stipulation between the State and defense counsel that coincided with a waiver of trial to a jury. Defense counsel's concern, in preparing such a stipulation and waiver, appeared to revolve around a question of how the waiver would affect other matters, relating to both trial and appeal of the instant case, and also matters pending in federal court. The State and trial court understood that the State's proposal was to be researched while the defense understood the State's proposal to be a preliminary draft to which he could suggest modifications. State's withdrawal of the proposal after some time prompted vigorous protests.

The trial court, having determined that no jury waiver was signed, compelled defense counsel to select a jury in order to proceed with the cause the following week.

The sole basis for the motion to disqualify, according to the record, was defense counsel's protests that he had negotiated exclusively with another member of the prosecutor's team. The actual trial prosecutor vigorously denied the assertion and further indicated that the member who had negotiated was under her supervision. In the absence of any authority or tenable foundation for the appellant's contention, and with no subsequent motions or tender of proof preserved for appeal, the sixth ground is overruled and the judgment of the trial court is affirmed.

JAMES E. WHITMORE,

Appellant,

v.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Appellee.

No. 52325.

Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas.

Oct. 13, 1976.

On Rehearing April 6, 1977.

State's Motion for Rehearing
July 12, 1978.

State's Motion for Rehearing En Banc
Denied Oct. 4, 1978.

Defendant was convicted before the Criminal District Court, Tarrant County, Byron Matthews, J., of capital murder and was sentenced to death, and he appealed. The Court of Criminal Appeals, Dally, C., held that person's testimony, which had been unavailable at trial due to his privilege against self-incrimination, but which became available because he was subsequently acquitted and which would probably bring about a different result at another trial of defendant, was newly available evidence entitling defendant to a new trial; and that fact that statutorily allowed time for filing of a motion for new trial by defendant had expired before such other person was acquitted did not preclude defendant from obtaining new trial on basis of the newly available evidence.

Motion for rehearing granted, judgment reversed and cause remanded.

Douglas, J., dissented and filed opinion in which Onion, P. J., joined.

Reavley, Special Judge, filed concurring opinion on State's motion for rehearing.

Douglas, J., filed dissenting opinion on State's motion for rehearing in which Onion, P. J., Tom G. Davis, J., and W. C. Davis, J., joined.

Brantley Pringle and Robert Schmidt, III, Fort Worth, for appellant.

Tim C. Curry, Dist. Atty. and Marvin Collins, Asst. Dist. Atty., Fort Worth, Jim D. Vollers, State's Atty., David S. McAngus, Asst. State's Atty., Austin, for the State.

OPINION

DOUGLAS, Judge.

This is an appeal from a conviction for capital murder. Punishment was assessed at death. The indictment alleged in substance that Whitmore caused death of Judy Carol Rummel by employing Harrell Totty for remuneration to kill her.

The evidence presented shows that at approximately 5:00 p.m., on September 26, 1974, appellant, James Whitmore, had gone to the Dos Gringos Bar in Fort Worth. Joyce Walton, a waitress who served appellant, testified that he appeared to be upset. She further stated that he told her that his girlfriend had tried to run over him with a car and attempted to stab him on two previous occasions and that in response to her comment, "You mean to tell me you're going to put a contract out on her?" he replied, "Well, I can't let her kill me." Whitmore then related that he had talked with a security guard as to exactly what could be done about the situation without elaborating on the details of their plans. He also stated to her that he would not be caught because no money would be transferred between them. As he left he said, "Well, you'll probably read about this in the paper."

Allen Bailey, his neighbor, testified that on the evening in question he had gone skeet shooting. He returned to his apartment around 9:30 p.m. and began cleaning his shotgun. Shortly thereafter, Whitmore came over and told him "... that if I heard two shots about two o'clock in the morning, not to worry about it, just open my door and he wanted to use the phone to call the police" because he did not have a telephone in his apartment. Bailey then testified that Whitmore had told him about his girlfriend's two previous attempts to kill him and about the details of his plan with the security guard, Harrell Totty, to kill her. The plan called for him to invite his girlfriend over to make amends for their past disagreements. Totty would be making his rounds of the apartment complex and would be in appellant's bathroom and he would yell, "Totty, Totty, Totty", and Totty would come around the corner and shoot her twice. Then they were going to take a knife from the sink and use a sock to put it in her hand. Whitmore would make sure she was dead and then call for a doctor who lived in the complex to come over. Bailey stated that he did not believe Whitmore.

Tory Schroeder came into the apartment and Whitmore told him of the attempts made on his life by his girlfriend to which Schroeder kiddingly replied, "I would have her shot." Some ten or fifteen minutes later Schroeder and Whitmore left to buy some beer. On the way to the Quik Sak grocery he told Schroeder that he was going to have his girlfriend, Judy Rummel, shot and that he was going to pay the security guard to do it and related the same plan to him as testified to by Bailey.

Judy Rummel, the deceased, was employed as a waitress at Pinto's, a restaurant and bar. Whitmore knew that the place usually remained open until 2:00 a.m. Judy closed Pinto's early on the evening in question because there were no customers. Susan Cowell, a friend and former roommate of the deceased, testified that she was with her at Pinto's at approximately 9:30 p.m. and that Judy was

very happy that evening because it was her first day back at work after having been in the hospital for pneumonia and she was going to see Whitmore that night.

Anita McCasland, the deceased's roommate, testified that she was with her at Pinto's from 8:00 p.m. until it closed at 11:30 p.m. and that her roommate had been in a good mood all evening. The deceased gave her a ride to their trailer house and after dropping her off said that she had received a call from Whitmore and was going to his apartment.

Schroeder, Totty and Whitmore were still in Bailey's apartment when the deceased arrived. Schroeder then returned to Dr. Horn's apartment where his mother was visiting and as he looked back he observed appellant, Totty and the deceased going into the apartment together. He then told Dr. Horn and his mother of Whitmore's threats and began watching the apartment through the window of Dr. Horn's apartment. Ten minutes later he heard two shots and then saw Whitmore go next door to Bailey's apartment. Bailey, who had left his apartment for a few minutes to go to the store, also heard the two shots as he was unlocking his door after which he heard a woman scream, "Oh, God." Shortly thereafter, Whitmore came into his apartment and said, "That was a cold blooded son-of-a-bitch, wasn't it, Allen?" Whitmore called the police and then went to Dr. Horn's apartment and told him that there was a woman in his apartment with two bullet holes in her. Dr. Horn told him to call an ambulance and police and to "get the hell" out of his apartment. Prior to going to Dr. Horn's, Whitmore had yelled to Bailey as he was leaving, "Al, come over and look at this s---." Bailey stepped outside his apartment and looked into the apartment. The deceased was lying on her side with her left arm draped over her forehead and her back toward the fireplace.

Officer C. P. Chessar of the Fort Worth Police Department testified that upon his arrival at the apartment he had the following conversation with Totty:

"Q. Did Totty describe to you the circumstances under which he had gone to the apartment that evening?

"A. Yes, sir, he did.

"Q. What did he say had happened?

"A. He stated he had been making his rounds, and knew that Whitmore had been having trouble, and he had gone to the apartment, One Seventy-One, to use the restroom. He stated that while he was inside the restroom he heard Whitmore screaming for help, and he went to the entrance-way. He said, 'I drew my pistol and fired twice, I think.'

"Q. All right. Did he say who he shot at?

"A. He stated that he had shot at a white female, coming at Whitmore with a knife extended."

Detective E. W. Cole of the homicide division testified that upon his arrival:

"He [Totty] told me he was the security guard there at the apartments that he—They had had trouble with Mrs. Rummel before at the apartments, that they had had complaints of her trying to run over Mr. Whitmore, that he was making his rounds, and that he had stopped into Mr. Whitmore's apartment to use the bathroom, or restroom, and while there, in the restroom, he heard a call from Whitmore, and when he came around he saw Mrs. Rummel coming at James Whitmore with a knife, and that he fired his weapon."

The Tarrant County medical examiner testified that the deceased had died as a result of blood loss into the thoracic

chest due to two gunshot entry wounds. Several other witnesses who had known Whitmore testified that he drank heavily and was an alcoholic. There was also testimony that there had been problems in the past between him and the deceased.

Whitmore testified that he had talked to Judy Rummel at 4:30 p.m. on September 26, 1974, approximately seven hours before her death and he knew that she worked until 2:00 a.m. each morning. He further testified that at 6:00 p.m. on September 26, 1974, he had asked the security guard, Harrell Totty, to come check on him around 2:00 or 2:15 a.m. because he was going to have a date and the deceased knew of this fact. He related that when Totty was making his rounds at approximately 11:30 p.m. and asked to use his bathroom, just before the killing, he told Totty there would be no need to come by at 2:00 a.m. because he was going to spend the night at his mother's place.

In his first ground of error, he contends that the trial court erred in not granting a new trial based on newly discovered evidence, the newly discovered evidence being that Harrell Totty, also indicted for his offense, had been acquitted.

The jury returned its verdict on May 30, 1975, and the motion for new trial was not filed until June 30, 1975. Assuming that we could consider the late motion for new trial, a subsequent acquittal of a co-principal of the crime does not by itself entitle a convicted co-defendant to a new trial. Another jury often has different evidence involving a single transaction. Different juries could reach opposite results on the same evidence. *Rozell v. State*, 502 S.W.2d 16 (Tex.Cr.App.1973).

Next, he contends that the trial court erred in filing "Conclusions of Law" overruling the motion for new trial over his objection. He urges that the action of the trial

court is in violation of Article 40.07, V.A.C.C.P., which provides:

"In granting or refusing a new trial, the judge shall not sum up, discuss or comment upon the evidence in the case, but shall simply grant or refuse the motion without prejudice to either party."

The court, in its conclusion, found that the motion was untimely filed. In order for such action to constitute reversible error, there must be a showing of injury to appellant. *Mims v. State*, 378 S.W.2d 318 (Tex.Cr.App.1964). No harm is shown. Ground of error number two is overruled.

In his third ground of error, he contends that the trial court erred in sustaining the State's challenge for cause of venireman Ray E. Rugg. He argues that Rugg was a qualified juror under the constitutional standards of "*Witherspoon*" and that the Legislature is without authority to impose stricter standards as to a venireman's qualification on the death penalty.

He is apparently contending that V.T. C.A., Penal Code, Section 12.31, is in conflict with *Witherspoon v. Illinois*, 391 U.S. 510, 88 S.Ct. 1770, 20 L.Ed.2d 776 (1968), and that the prospective juror Rugg was excused in violation of *Witherspoon*.

In *Hovila v. State*, 532 S.W.2d 293 (Tex.Cr.App.1975), we held that the holding of *Witherspoon* was still alive and well in light of the new statutory scheme providing for the imposition of the death penalty, the adoption of which followed in the wake of *Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238, 92 S.Ct. 2726, 33 L.Ed.2d 346 (1972). *Moore v. State*, 542 S.W.2d 664 (1976).

The statutory scheme for capital murder [V.T.C.A., Penal Code, Section 1903 (formerly Article 1257, V.A.P.C., as amended in 1973), and Article 37.071, V.A.C.C.P.], including the possible infliction of the death penalty, has

been upheld by this Court in *Jurek v. State*, 522 S.W.2d 934 (Tex.Cr.App. 1975), and by the United States Supreme Court in *Jurek v. Texas*, 428 U.S. 262, 96 S.Ct. 2950, 49 L.Ed.2d (1976).

Prospective juror Rugg stated that under certain circumstances he would falsify his vote in answering the questions or issues submitted to him as provided by Article 37.071, V.A.C.C.P., in order to avoid imposition of the death penalty. Although Rugg stated that in a proper case he might be able to impose the death penalty, he consistently stated that his opposition to the death penalty would affect his deliberation on the fact issues submitted to him as required by Article 37.071, *supra*. While it is conceded by the State that Rugg was qualified under the *Witherspoon* doctrine, his answers were such as to disqualify him under V.T.C.A., Penal Code, Section 12.31(b), which provides:

“Prospective jurors, shall be informed that a sentence of life imprisonment or death is mandatory on conviction of a capital felony. A prospective juror shall be disqualified from serving as a juror unless he states under oath that the mandatory penalty of death or imprisonment for life will not affect his deliberations on any issue of fact.”¹

It is of no consequence that prospective juror Rugg was qualified under *Witherspoon*. *Moore v. State*, *supra*. Ground of error number three is overruled.

Ground of error number four complains of the admission into evidence of photographs taken of the deceased in the morgue after the killing. The photographs, taken before the autopsy, show the location of the wounds and were

¹ See similar provision contained in Article 1257(d), V.A.P.C., 1925, as amended (Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 1122, ch. 426—effective June 14, 1973 until January 1, 1974—effective date of present Penal Code.

admissible under *Martin v. State*, 475 S.W.2d 265 (Tex.Cr.App.1972). No error is shown.

In ground of error number five, he contends that the trial court erred in refusing to admit into evidence at the preliminary competency to stand trial hearing an affidavit by Dr. Jackson Speegle regarding his mental condition. He argues that the affidavit was admissible to show his state of mind and he relied on Article 3726, V.A.C.S. His contention is without merit.

The affidavit in question was dated August 15, 1960, and states that appellant was a schizophrenic. The State's objection that the affidavit was hearsay and was not authenticated or qualified under the provisions of Article 3737e, V.A.C.S., was properly sustained. The affidavit was more than fifteen years old and was of no material relevance in the instant case. There is no showing in the record that Dr. Speegle was unavailable or that any attempt had been made to subpoena him.

Ground of error number six urges that the trial court erred in the admission into evidence at the trial on the merits the judgment of the competency hearing. Such contention is without merit. Where testimony is offered upon the main trial on the issue of insanity, the admission into evidence of the judgment in a preliminary sanity hearing is proper. *Wilkinson v. State*, 423 S.W.2d 311 (Tex.Cr.App.1968).

Ground of error number seven complains that the trial court should have submitted to the jury a charge during the punishment phase of the trial as to the issue of temporary insanity caused by intoxication. The charge submitted to the jury at the punishment stage of the trial properly instructed the jury as to the law of temporary insanity caused by intoxication as a mitigating fact. No error is shown.

In grounds of error numbers eight, nine, ten and fourteen appellant contends that the grand jury did not hear

sufficient evidence before it returned the indictment and that the trial court should not have refused him a copy of the grand jury proceedings so that it could be included in the record on appeal.

The motion to quash the indictment was filed June 9, 1975, ten days after the trial was concluded. A grand jury may determine the nature and competency of any evidence presented to it and this Court cannot go behind the face of the indictment. *Carpenter v. State*, 477 S.W.2d 22 (Tex.Cr.App.1972).

There is no showing in this record that the grand jury testimony was ever recorded or transcribed nor has appellant shown a particularized need. No error is shown. *Hoffman v. State*, 514 S.W.2d 248 (Tex.Cr.App.1974). Grounds of error numbers eight, nine, ten and fourteen are overruled.

Ground of error eleven contends that the trial court should not have transferred this case from Criminal District Court No. 4 to Criminal District Court No. 1. The court has the power to transfer causes and there is no jurisdictional problem. *Bank v. State*, 503 S.W.2d 582 (Tex.Cr.App.1974). There was no challenge to the regularity of the transfer made at the time of the trial and no harm has been shown. Nothing is presented for review.

In grounds of error numbers twelve and thirteen, appellant contends that the death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment and that the juries and prosecutors are given too much discretionary authority. These contentions have been decided adversely to appellant by this Court in *Jurek v. State*, supra, and *Smith v. State*, 540 S.W.2d 693 (1976), and by the United States Supreme Court in *Jurek v. Texas*, 428 U.S. 262, 96 S.Ct. 2950, 49 L.Ed.2d 929 (1976).

Finally, in ground of error number fifteen, appellant contends that it was error for the trial court to admit

certain statements made by the deceased to her roommate, Anita McCasland, outside his presence on the day of her murder. Many of the statements came in without objection. Even if the statements were hearsay, no reversible error was committed. The statements made earlier to her roommate are admissible to show that she was going to see appellant on a peaceful mission. *Corbett v. State*, 493 S.W.2d 940 (Tex.Cr.App.1973); *Sherman v. State*, 428 S.W.2d 338 (Tex.Cr.App.1968); *Porter v. State*, 152 Tex.Cr. 540, 215 S.W.2d 889 (1948).

No reversible error having been shown, the judgment is affirmed.

OPINION ON APPELLANT'S MOTION FOR REHEARING

DALLY, Commissioner.

On motion for rehearing we have reconsidered the appellant's contention that he was deprived of a constitutional right to the testimony of a co-defendant who was acquitted after the appellant's conviction.

James E. Whitmore and Harrell Totty were indicted for the murder of Judy Carol Rummel. It was alleged that the appellant, for remuneration and the promise of remuneration, hired Totty to kill the deceased. A severance was requested and granted. Appellant was tried first, although he asked that Totty be tried first, and a jury returned a verdict of guilty of capital murder and assessed punishment at death; judgment was entered on May 30, 1975, and the appellant's motion for new trial was overruled July 10th.

Harrell Totty, who admitted he shot the deceased, was subsequently tried. The court charged the jury on the law of capital murder, murder, voluntary manslaughter, self-defense, and defense of a third person. On October 4, 1975, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. On October 8,

1975, the appellant filed a motion for new trial and alleged as grounds newly discovered evidence. Appellant alleged that at the time of his trial he was denied the testimony of Totty because Totty would have asserted his Fifth Amendment right and refused to testify. It was further alleged that since Totty had been acquitted his testimony was now available. The court overruled appellant's motion for new trial because it was filed after the time provided for filing such motions. See Art. 40.05, V.A.C.C.P.

At the hearing on the motion for new trial Totty's attorney testified that the appellant's attorney had requested that Totty testify at the appellant's trial. Totty's attorney stated that he advised appellant's attorney that Totty would assert his Fifth Amendment right and would not testify at appellant's trial. At the hearing appellant offered the testimony of Totty at his own trial to show what his testimony would have been if Totty had testified at appellant's trial. The court admitted a transcript of Totty's testimony as a bill of exception for the record on appeal.

Totty testified at his own trial that he was a member of the United States Air Force. His general duty was that of a security guard. He had secret clearance and on special occasions had guarded nuclear weapons and the President of the United States. With permission of the Air Force, he worked part-time as a security guard at the apartment complex where he and his family lived. While working as a security guard at the apartments he became acquainted with the appellant and his former girl friend, Judy Rummel, the deceased. The first time he saw the deceased he pulled her off the appellant because she was sitting on him and beating him with her fists. Totty testified that on another occasion the deceased was arrested by the police for breaking appellant's window. He had numerous complaints about both the deceased and the appellant and tried to get the manager to have the appellant evicted from the apartments. On another occasion he saw the de-

ceased with her car try to run over the appellant and a girl friend. Because of all this trouble, the apartment manager instructed Totty that under no circumstances was the deceased to be allowed to be at the apartments and that he should check on appellant's apartment at least every hour.

Totty testified that on the night of the shooting he was making his rounds checking the apartments. He knocked on appellant's door and was told to come in. Appellant's door was unlocked and he did not see the deceased. Appellant was sitting on his couch. Totty asked to use the restroom and checked the back room to make sure the deceased was not present, because he remembered that he had not been checking appellant's apartment as he had been instructed to do. When he was coming out of the bedroom from using the restroom he heard the appellant shout, "Help, help. She's going to kill me." The deceased was about an arm's length from the appellant with a knife in her hand. He stated that deceased appeared crazed and out of her mind and that he was afraid for appellant's life and his own. He drew his gun and shot the deceased. He stated that when he shot her he was too far away to physically stop her and that he was afraid, if he did not shoot, she would attack him and would have killed the appellant. Totty further testified that he had not agreed to kill or discussed killing Judy Rummel with appellant; that he had not received any money or the promise of anything from Whitmore or anyone else to kill her. He stated that he was sorry that the killing occurred but that there was no way he could have avoided it.

A trial court has considerable discretion in granting or denying a new trial in which newly discovered evidence may be admitted. To show that the court abused its discretion by not granting a new trial, the record must reflect that: (1) the newly discovered evidence was unknown to the movant at the time of his trial; (2) the movant's failure to discover the evidence was not due to his want of dil-

igence; (3) the materiality of the evidence is such as would probably bring about a different result on another trial; and (4) the evidence is admissible and is not merely cumulative, corroborative, collateral, or impeaching. *Hernandez v. State*, 507 S.W.2d 209 (Tex.Cr.App.1974); *Myers v. State*, 527 S.W.2d 307 (Tex.Cr.App.1975); *Williams v. State*, 504 S.W.2d 477 (Tex.Cr.App.1974).

The testimony of Harrell Totty was known to the appellant before his trial and is not in the usual meaning of the words newly discovered; however, it was newly available evidence. A defendant may not call as a witness a co-defendant who has indicated he will assert his privilege against self-incrimination under the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution. *Rodriguez v. State*, 513 S.W.2d 594 (Tex.Cr.App.1974); *Glasper v. State*, 486 S.W.2d 350 (Tex.Cr.App.1972); *Victoria v. State*, 522 S.W.2d 919 (Tex.Cr.App.1975); *United States v. Roberts*, 503 F.2d 598 (9th Cir. 1974) cert. denied 419 U.S. 1113, 95 S.Ct. 791, 42 L.Ed.2d 811 (1975); *United States v. McKinney*, 453 F.2d 1221 (9th Cir. 1972). However, after the witness has been convicted or acquitted that witness' testimony then becomes available. *United States v. Hoffman*, 385 F.2d 501 (7th Cir. 1967). See *Brumfield v. State*, 445 S.W.2d 732 (Tex.Cr.App.1969); *Franco v. State*, 491 S.W.2d 890 (Tex.Cr.App.1973); *Cherb v. State*, 472 S.W.2d 273 (Tex.Cr.App.1971). Also, a witness may change his mind and, while represented by counsel, elect to waive that right and testify. Thus, it has been held that the witness then becomes the source of new factual information not otherwise previously available. *United States v. Guillette*, 404 F.Supp. 1360 (D.C.Conn. 1975).

This Court has long recognized that newly available evidence is the same as newly discovered evidence. Under our prior laws,¹ which have been repealed² and held un-

¹ Art. 711, V.A.C.C.P. (1925); Art. 82, V.A.P.C. (1925).

² Art. 36.09, V.A.C.C.P. (1965).

constitutional,³ principals, accomplices, or accessories could not testify on behalf of each other. Where two people were jointly or separately indicted for an offense arising from the same incident, and one was tried and convicted, and subsequently the other was tried and acquitted, a new trial was granted the former to enable him to obtain the testimony of the latter, where it appeared that the new evidence which the law had formerly placed beyond his reach was admissible and material to his defense. Branch's Penal Code, Sec. 762 (2d ed. 1956) which cites numerous cases in support of the rule stated, including, e.g., *Lyles v. State*, 41 Tex. 172 (Tex.App.1874); *Rucker v. State*, 7 Tex.App. 549 (1880); *Sylvas v. State*, 68 Tex.Cr. 117, 150 S.W. 906 (1912). As this Court stated in *Barker v. State*, 73 Tex.Crim. 229, 164 S.W. 383 (1914):

"It is well settled that if, after the defendant is tried and convicted, his co-defendant is tried and acquitted, the testimony of the latter is held to be newly discovered."

The difference between this situation and that in the case at bar is that in the former the testimony was not available because a statute made the witness incompetent, while in the latter the testimony is unavailable because of the witness' constitutional rights.

There is no doubt that the testimony of Totty was newly available evidence after the jury at his trial acquitted him. The appellant could not be charged with a want of diligence. Although it was probably unnecessary to do so to preserve error, he attempted to obtain at the time of his trial the testimony of Totty. From our discussion of the testimony of Totty given at his own trial, there is no doubt that his testimony would be admissible and not merely cumulative, corroborative, collateral, or impeaching; and

³ *Washington v. Texas*, 388 U.S. 14, 87 S.Ct. 1920, 18 L.Ed.2d 1019 (1967).

that its materiality was such as would probably bring about a different result on another trial. If appellant had filed his motion for new trial based on newly discovered evidence within the time provided by our Code of Criminal Procedure, we would have held that it was an abuse of discretion to deny appellant a new trial. Therefore, the question is whether an accused's right to compulsory process under the Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution and the Texas Constitution is superior and should override a valid provision of our Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of *Washington v. Texas*, 388 U.S. 24, 87 S.Ct. 1920, 18 L.Ed.2d 1019 (1967), was faced with a conflict between an accused's right to compulsory process and a state statute which prevented his co-defendant from testifying on behalf of the accused. The Court held that the right of an accused to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment, is so fundamental and essential to a fair trial that it is incorporated in the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court said:

"The right to offer the testimony of witnesses, and to compel their attendance, if necessary, is in plain terms the right to present a defense, the right to present the defendant's version of the facts as well as the prosecution's to the jury so it may decide where the truth lies. Just as an accused has the right to confront the prosecution's witnesses for the purpose of challenging their testimony, he has the right to present his own witnesses to establish a defense. This right is a fundamental element of due process of law."

The Court held that Washington was denied his right to compulsory process because the State arbitrarily denied him the right to call a witness who was physically and mentally capable of testifying to events that he had per-

sonally observed, and whose testimony would have been relevant and material to the defense.

In *Braswell v. Wainwright*, 463 F.2d 1148 (5th Cir. 1972), the Fifth Circuit relying on *Washington v. Texas*, *supra*, stated that "when a state procedural rule comes into conflict with a fundamental constitutional right it is clear that the state rule must yield." In *Braswell*, the "rule" was invoked regarding the sequestration of witnesses who intended to testify. A defense witness violated the "rule" by remaining in the courtroom during the presentation of the state's case. The Court of Appeals reversed and ordered a new trial. The Court discussed at length the excluded testimony which clearly showed that his testimony was crucial to the appellant's claim of self-defense. While the Court noted that Federal Courts are reluctant to strike down valid procedural rules, the Court held that in these particular and extraordinary circumstances the exclusion of the appellant's sole corroborating witness denied the appellant his Sixth Amendment right, and rendered his trial fundamentally unfair.⁴

At the time of appellant's trial, the appellant's constitutional right to compulsory process was in direct conflict with Harrell Totty's constitutional right against self-incrimination. The weight of authority appears to be that the privilege against self-incrimination is the superior right. *Rodriguez v. State*, *supra*; *Gasper v. State*, *supra*; *United States v. Roberts*, *supra*; *United States v. McKinney*, *supra*; cf. *Victoria v. State*, *supra*. In order for appellant to receive the full benefit of his constitutional rights we will review this claim as it stood at the time he filed his motion for new trial based on newly available evidence, because

⁴ We note that *Braswell* involved a rule of evidence, while the case at bar concerns a valid statute governing the time for filing motions for new trial; however, neither can be applied so as to deprive an accused of a right secured by the Constitution.

at that time the conflict of constitutional rights was no longer present due to Totty's acquittal.

The case at bar does not present a question of lack of diligence in asserting this constitutional right. The record reflects that appellant's attorney attempted to have Totty testify at appellant's trial but that he could not compel Totty to testify. Totty's testimony was therefore not available until after October 4, 1975. Four days later, on October 8, 1975, appellant filed his motion for new trial based on newly discovered evidence.

We cannot say that the failure to grant appellant a new trial is harmless. As noted earlier, one of the most important factors in determining whether the trial court abused its discretion by failing to grant a new trial based on newly discovered evidence is whether "its materiality was such as would probably bring about a different result on another trial." *Hernandez v. State*, supra. Other cases have stated that it must be shown that "the new evidence was probably true, and that such evidence would probably produce a different result at another trial." *Myers v. State*, supra.

V.T.C.A. Penal Code, Sec. 1903 (Capital Murder), states that:

"(a) A person commits an offense if he commits murder as defined under Section 19.02(a)(1) of this code and;

* * * * *

"(3) the person commits the murder for remuneration or the promise of remuneration or employs another to commit the murder for remuneration or the promise of remuneration; * * *"

The appellant was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to death because the jury found that he hired Harrell Totty to kill Judy Rummel. The appellant and Totty

were the only persons present at the time Judy Rummel was killed. The jury that convicted the appellant did not hear the testimony of Totty. Totty's trial was held after appellant's. At his trial Totty testified in his own behalf. The jury apparently believed Totty's testimony and acquitted him. Therefore, it is beyond dispute that the appellant was harmed by not being granted a new trial after Totty was acquitted and at a point in time when he could have compelled Totty to testify.⁵

The appellant was deprived of the full benefit of his constitutional right to compulsory process guaranteed by the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States. In the circumstances of this case our Code of Criminal Procedure provision governing the time for filing of motions for new trial must yield to the appellant's superior constitutional rights. Accordingly, the appellant's motion for new trial that alleged as grounds newly available testimony should have been granted.

Our decision in this case does not overrule the cases stating the general rule that an untimely motion for new trial should not be heard by the trial court. See e.g., *Jones v. State*, 501 S.W.2d 677 (Tex.Cr.App.1973); *Morton v. State*, 502 S.W.2d 121 (Tex.Cr.App.1973); *Morales v. State*, 458 S.W.2d 56 (Tex.Cr.App.1970); *Nelson v. State*, 464 S.W.2d 834 (Tex.Cr.App.1971); *Roberts v. State*, 493 S.W.2d 849 (Tex.Cr.App.1973); *Boykin v. State*, 516 S.W.2d 946 (Tex.Cr.App.1974); *Morgan v. State*, 519 S.W.2d 449 (Tex.Cr.App.1975); *Allen v. State*, 536 S.W.2d 364

⁵ For a few cases which discuss facts that have been held to show or not show harm because an accused was deprived of the testimony of a witness, see and compare, *United States v. Curran*, 465 F.2d 260 (7th Cir. 1972); *Zerschausky v. Beto*, 396 F.2d 356 (5th Cir. 1968) cert. denied 393 U.S. 1004, 89 S.Ct. 493, 21 L.Ed.2d 468; *Ex parte Kirk*, 478 S.W.2d 503 (Tex.Cr.App.1972); *Ex parte Columbus*, 489 S.W.2d 562 (Tex.Cr.App.1973); *Ex parte Turner*, 542 S.W.2d 187 (Tex.Cr.App.1976).

(Tex.Cr.App.1976). However, in some cases where an accused's constitutional rights are in conflict with a valid procedural rule of law the procedural rule must yield to the superior constitutional right. Also, in this case, the facts show good cause for a late filing of the motion for new trial. See Article 40.05, V.A.C.C.P. At no time during the statutory period for filing motions for new trial could the appellant have raised the issue presented here, because during that period of time Totty had not been tried and was unavailable as a witness. Even though the motion for new trial was not granted, the careful trial judge undoubtedly recognized the conflict between the accused's constitutional rights and the statutory provision and permitted appellant's counsel to perfect the record. Therefore, the appellant here need not be relegated to habeas corpus relief. A constitutional question similar to the one presented here was raised in *Jones v. State*, supra. However, in that case, the co-defendant, whose testimony Jones alleged he was deprived of was available to testify at the time of trial because he had already been convicted of the offense in question. Therefore, had Jones exercised diligence, he could have compelled the co-defendant to testify at any time during the trial. Also, Jones could have raised his constitutional question in a *timely* motion for a new trial. Jones still had the right to seek habeas corpus relief when all of the facts could be more fully developed than they were developed in his motion for new trial.

For the reasons stated, appellant's motion for rehearing is granted, the judgment is reversed and the cause remanded.

Opinion approved by the Court.

**DISSENTING OPINION ON
APPELLANT'S MOTION
FOR REHEARING**

DOUGLAS, Judge.

The majority holds that appellant was denied his constitutional right to the testimony of co-defendant Totty and reverses.

Totty was acquitted subsequent to appellant's conviction and prior to his motion for new trial. Appellant alleged in the motion that at the time of his trial he was deprived of Totty's testimony because Totty would have asserted his privilege against self-incrimination and refuse to testify.

At the hearing on the motion for new trial, it was established that appellant's attorney had requested that Totty testify at appellant's trial. Although Totty's attorney testified that he advised appellant's attorney that Totty would assert his privilege at appellant's trial, Totty himself never asserted the privilege nor indicated he would refuse to testify.

It should not have to be explained to the majority that the privilege against self-incrimination is personal to the witness and can be asserted only by him. *United States v. Nobles*, 422 U.S. 225, 95 S.Ct. 2160, 45 L.Ed.2d 141; *Rogers v. United States*, 340 U.S. 367, 71 S.Ct. 438, 95 L.Ed. 344 (1951), rehearing denied 341 U.S. 912, 71 S.Ct. 619, 95 L.Ed. 1348; *Sharp v. United States*, 410 F.2d 969 (5th Cir. 1969); *United States v. Goodwin*, 470 F.2d 893 (5th Cir. 1972), cert. denied 411 U.S. 969, 93 S.Ct. 2160, 36 L.Ed.2d 691; *Gasper v. State*, 486 S.W.2d 350 (Tex.Cr.App.1972); *Cherb v. State*, 472 S.W.2d 273 (Tex.Cr.App.1971). Not even the witness' attorney may claim the privilege for him. *United States v. Moore*, 485 F.2d 1165 (5th Cir. 1973); *Ex parte Miers*, 124 Tex.Cr.R. 592, 64 S.W.2d 778 (Tex.Cr.App.1933); 8 Wigmore, Evidence, Section 2272 at 426 (McNaughton rev. 1961). Furthermore, the privilege may not be asserted in advance of questions actually propounded to the witness. It must be asserted with respect to particular questions, and in each instance the court must determine the propriety of the

refusal to testify. *United States v. Malnik*, 489 F.2d 682 (5th Cir. 1974), cert. denied 419 U.S. 826, 95 S.Ct. 44, 42 L.Ed.2d 50; *Farmer v. State*, 491 S.W.2d 133 (Tex.Cr.App.1973). Thus, "a simple blanket declaration by the witness that he cannot testify for fear of self-incrimination will not suffice to invoke the privilege . . .; the mechanism of the Fifth Amendment is not automatic or self-winding." *United States v. Gomez-Rojas*, 507 F.2d 1213 (5th Cir. 1975), cert. denied 423 U.S. 826, 96 S.Ct. 41, 46 L.Ed.2d 42. See also *Hoffman v. United States*, 341 U.S. 479, 71 S.Ct. 814, 95 L.Ed. 1118 (1951).

In discussing Totty's testimony in the instant case, the majority correctly states, "[a] defendant may not call as a witness a co-defendant who has indicated he will assert his privilege against self-incrimination under the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution. *Rodriguez v. State*, 513 S.W.2d 594 (Tex.Cr.App.1974); *Glasper v. State*, 486 S.W.2d 350 (Tex.Cr.App.1972); *Victoria v. State*, 522 S.W.2d 919 (Tex.Cr.App.1975); *United States v. Roberts*, 503 F.2d 598 (9th Cir. 1974), cert. denied 419 U.S. 1113, 95 S.Ct. 791, 42 L.Ed.2d 811 (1975); *United States v. McKinney*, 453 F.2d 1221 (9th Cir. 1972)." However, a review of those authorities reveals that the co-defendant witness in each case properly invoked the privilege before the court determined that the co-defendant would not be compelled to testify. *Rodriguez v. State*, supra; *Glasper v. State*, supra; *Victoria v. State*, supra; *United States v. Roberts*, supra; *United States v. McKinney*, supra.

In the case at bar, therefore, appellant's constitutional right to compulsory process was not in conflict with co-defendant Totty's constitutional right against self-incrimination. The declarations made by Totty's attorney concerning what Totty might or would have done if he had been called to testify at appellant's trial did not present the trial court with a problem of constitutional dimensions. Even Totty was not the exclusive judge of his right to exercise the Fifth Amendment privilege; the judge was

entitled to determine whether any refusal to answer particular questions appeared to be based upon the good faith of the witness and was justifiable under all of the circumstances. *United States v. Gomez-Rojas*, *supra*; *Ex parte Butler*, 522 S.W.2d 196 (Tex. 1975).

The court never had the opportunity to make such a determination. Since Totty never invoked his Fifth Amendment privilege, appellant's right to compulsory process was not opposed. Accordingly, the court correctly overruled appellant's motion for new trial because it was filed after the time provided for filing such motions. See Article 40.05, V.A.C.C.P. Appellant's motion for rehearing should be overruled.

ONION, P. J., joins in this dissent.

En Banc.

OPINION ON STATE'S MOTION FOR REHEARING

ODOM, Judge.

The State's motion for leave to file a motion for rehearing was granted and after reconsideration we overrule the State's motion for rehearing, having decided that the matter was properly disposed of in the majority opinion by then Commissioner Dally delivered April 4, 1977.

When this case was originally heard and decided, this Court consisted of five Judges. At that time Judge Vollers was State's Attorney and actively participated in the appeal of this case. Accordingly, pursuant to Article 5, Sec. 11, of the Texas Constitution, Judge Vollers certified his disqualification to the Honorable Dolph Briscoe, Governor of the State of Texas, who then appointed the Honorable Thomas M. Reavley, a former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, to replace the Honorable Judge Vollers to hear and determine the State's motion for rehearing in this appeal.

The State's motion for rehearing is overruled.

ROBERTS, PHILLIPS and DALLY, JJ., and REAVLEY, Special Judge, join in this opinion.

REAVLEY, Special Judge, concurring.

I join the four Judges in overruling the State's motion for rehearing, but my decision is not based upon the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution. My decision is based upon the nature of the newly discovered evidence in this death case; it entitled appellant to a new trial.

The trial court overruled appellant's motion for new trial because it was untimely filed. Article 40.05, V.A.C.C.P., provides that "... for good cause shown the time for filing or amending may be extended by the court ..." The sufficiency of the evidence of "good cause" is subject to review on appeal. *Robinson v. State*, 505 S.W.2d 298 (Tex.Cr.App.1974); see *Kilpatrick v. State*, 85 Tex.Cr.R. 172, 211 S.W. 230 (1919); cf. *Clopton v. State*, 563 S.W.2d 930 (Tex.Cr.App. 1978). Appellant filed his motion only four days after the testimony of Harrell Totty first became available. Good cause for late filing of the motion is established.

The newly acquired evidence of an acquitted co-defendant has been held to require a new trial in a number of cases. See *Rozell v. State*, 502 S.W.2d 16, 18 (footnote 1) (Tex.Cr.App.1973).

In *Rucker v. State*, 7 Tex.App. 549 (1880), the Court held that where two are jointly indicted, and one is tried and convicted, and subsequently the other is tried and acquitted, a new trial will be granted the former to obtain the testimony of the latter, where it appears that the new evidence is legal, competent and material to the convicted defendant's defense. The *Rucker* decision was followed in *Gibbs v. State*, 30 Tex.App. 581, 18 S.W. 88 (1891), and in *Chumley v. State*, 32 Tex.Cr.R. 255, 26 S.W. 406 (1893).

Rucker and *Gibbs* were followed by the Court in *Sanders v. State*, 52 Tex.Cr.R. 465, 107 S.W. 839 (1908). In that case the defendant was convicted of manslaughter upon an indictment charging her with murder. The defendant herself did not shoot the deceased, but the case was tried and submitted to the jury on the theory that she had conspired with her brother, who was alleged to have fired the fatal shot that resulted in the death of the deceased. The defendant was tried first and convicted. Her brother, indicted for the same offense, could not and did not testify. After the conviction of the defendant, her brother was tried and acquitted of the same offense as that for which his sister had been convicted. The defendant then made a motion for a new trial, setting up the facts of the acquittal of her brother, that his testimony was and would be material to her defense, and that she was denied the benefit of his testimony by reason of the pendency of the indictment against him. The motion for new trial set out at great length the testimony to be given by the brother. The Court held there was no doubt as to the materiality of this new testimony and found reversible error in the trial court's overruling of the motion for new trial.

The Court recited and followed the rule of the *Rucker* case:

There can be no doubt at this day as to the rule or the correctness of the rule in proper cases, as now established in this State, that where two are jointly indicted, and one is tried and convicted, and subsequently the other is tried and acquitted, a new trial will be granted the former to obtain the testimony of the latter, where it appears that the new evidence is legal and competent and material to his defense. *Sanders*, 107 S.W. 840.

The *Sanders* Court also relied upon the *Gibbs* decision, noting that it involved a conviction for murder and subsequent reversal thereof on the sole ground that the

defendant in that case had been denied the testimony of a co-defendant who had subsequently been acquitted. The Court stated that the *Gibbs* decision ". . . is precisely in point and authority for our action in this case." *Id.*

In *Sylvas v. State*, 68 Tex.Cr.R. 117, 150 S.W. 906 (1912), the defendant and one Franco were indicted for murder. The defendant was convicted, and Franco was later tried and acquitted. After Franco's acquittal, the defendant made a motion for new trial. An affidavit was attached to the motion showing that Franco testified upon his trial that he had killed the deceased and that the defendant had nothing to do with it. The Court noted that Franco could not testify at the time of the defendant's trial, but that subsequent to the defendant's conviction, Franco had been tried and acquitted. The Court then summarized the facts set out in Franco's affidavit which was attached to the defendant's motion for new trial. In substance, the affidavit recited that Franco would have testified positively that defendant had nothing to do with the alleged murder, that Franco killed the deceased in self-defense, and that his jury took his view and acquitted him. Applying *Rucker*, *Gibbs* and their progeny, the Court noted that Franco's testimony was very material to the defendant and that the trial court should have awarded a new trial under the authority of those decisions.

In *Barker v. State*, 73 Tex.Cr.R. 229, 164 S.W. 383 (1914), the defendant was convicted of receiving and concealing stolen property. The State's case was established by the testimony of a confessed accomplice. He testified that he and others burglarized a house, that the defendant knew of this burglary, and subsequently received the stolen goods. One of the accomplice's cohorts, Decherd, was still in jail when the appellant was convicted on June 27. On July 1, after appellant's conviction, Decherd was discharged from custody and relieved of prosecution. The defendant obtained his statement in writing and it contradicted the accomplice's testimony on all points. This

statement was appended to defendant's motion for new trial. Following the rule laid down in the *Rucker* case, the Court held that the defendant was entitled to a new trial. At the time of the *Barker* decision, a motion for new trial had to be made within two days after conviction, but for good cause shown, the trial court could allow the motion to be made at any time before adjournment of the term at which the conviction was had. The question of timeliness was not discussed in the *Barker* decision, but it is apparent that the motion was untimely filed. The Court did state that the first opportunity the defendant had to avail himself of Decherd's testimony was after the State had discharged him from custody; that Decherd's testimony could not be used by the defendant until after he was discharged; that this occurred on the 1st of July, after defendant's conviction on the 27th of June; and that the defendant procured Decherd's affidavit and made the showing at the earliest practicable moment.

In *Denning v. State*, 120 Tex.Cr.R. 122, 48 S.W.2d 643 (1932), the defendant and another were indicted for the possession of intoxicating liquor for the purpose of sale. Some two weeks after the appellant's conviction, his companion was tried and acquitted. Thereupon, the defendant filed a motion for new trial so that he might have the benefit of the testimony of his companion. In applying the rule of the *Rucker* case, the Court affirmed the judgment because the evidence expected from the acquitted individual was not contained in the record.

These cases were decided at the time when the Texas statute prevented the co-defendant from testifying on behalf of the accused. That statute was held to be an unconstitutional infringement upon the Sixth Amendment right of an accused to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor in *Washington v. Texas*, 388 U.S. 14, 87 S.Ct. 1920, 18 L.Ed.2d 1019 (1967). We do not have state action preventing Whitmore from obtaining the testimony of Totty at the original trial, but we do

have newly available evidence that may change the conviction or punishment assessed Whitmore. I would not hold that Whitmore has a constitutional right to the testimony of Totty and to a new trial. I would hold that Whitmore's motion does state grounds for a new trial under the general rules of newly discovered or available evidence.

In deciding the motion, and in treating the procedural flaws in the present record, the overriding consideration to me is that James E. Whitmore should not be sent to his death without his peers weighing the testimony of Harrell Totty—the man who was alleged to have killed Judy Rummel at Whitmore's hiring—but who has been freed and absolved from all crime.

It would be my preference to abate the appeal and to allow the appellant an opportunity to put his motion for new trial in proper form before the trial court considers the motion on its merits. I would permit this liberality towards procedural requirements because this is a death case. The other Judges elect either to reject appellant's appeal or to order a new trial. Given that choice, I join in ordering the new trial and overruling the State's motion for rehearing.

VOLLERS, J., not participating.

DOUGLAS, Judge, dissenting.

On appellant's motion for rehearing the majority held that he was denied his constitutional right to the testimony of co-defendant Totty. Totty had been acquitted subsequent to appellant's conviction but prior to his motion for new trial. Appellant alleged in the motion that at the time of his trial he was deprived of Totty's testimony because Totty would have asserted his privilege against self-incrimination and refused to testify.

At the hearing on the motion for new trial, it was established that appellant's attorney had requested that Totty testify at appellant's trial. Although Totty's attorney tes-

tified that he advised appellant's attorney that Totty would assert his privilege at appellant's trial, Totty himself never asserted the privilege nor indicated he would refuse to testify.

Appellant's motion for new trial was filed after the same provided for filing such motions. See Article 40.05, V.A.C.C.P. The majority held that appellant was denied his right to compulsory process and that, under these circumstances, the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure provision governing the time for filing of motions for new trial must yield to appellant's superior constitutional rights. The majority further held that the motion for new trial that alleged as grounds newly available testimony should have been granted.

The majority opinion, on rehearing, relied on *Washington v. Texas*, 388 U.S. 14, 87 S.Ct. 1920, 18 L.Ed.2d 1019 (1967), and *Braswell v. Wainwright*, 463 F.2d 1148 (5th Cir. 1972). In *Washington*, the Supreme Court of the United States was confronted with the question whether the Sixth Amendment right to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor is applicable to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment, and whether that right was violated by a state procedural statute providing that persons charged as principals, accomplices, or accessories in the same crime cannot be introduced as witnesses for each other.

Determining that the Sixth Amendment right to compulsory process is incorporated into the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, the Court wrote:

"The right to offer the testimony of witnesses, and to compel their attendance, if necessary, is in plain terms the right to present a defense, the right to present the defendant's version of the facts as well as the prosecution's to the jury so it may decide where the truth lies. Just as an accused has the right to confront the prosecution's witnesses for the purpose

of challenging their testimony, he has the right to present his own witnesses to establish a defense. This right is a fundamental element of due process of law."

87 S.Ct. at 1923.

The Court held that the state statute in question violated the petitioner's constitutional rights because it "arbitrarily denied him the right to put on the stand a witness who was physically and mentally capable of testifying to events that he had personally observed, and whose testimony would have been relevant and material to the defense." 87 S.Ct. at 1925. But the Court stressed that the statute was invalid because it *arbitrarily* prevented whole categories of defense witnesses from testifying on the basis of prior categories that presumed them unworthy of belief. The Court implied that it would have had greater difficulty in striking down the state rule if the accused accomplice would have been absolutely prohibited from testifying. It pointed out that the rule permitted the accomplice to be called by the prosecution to testify against the defendant, or to testify for the defendant after he was acquitted at his own trial. Common sense suggested that an accomplice often has a greater interest in lying in favor of the prosecution rather than against it, in order to obtain leniency from the prosecution.

Justice Harlan, in his concurring opinion, stated that that case did not implicate the right to compulsory process in any manner. In his view, the case was one in which the State of Texas had recognized as relevant and competent the testimony of an accomplice witness but had arbitrarily barred its use by the defendant and that this violated the Due Process Clause.

In *Braswell*, the "rule" regarding the sequestration of witnesses who intended to testify was invoked. A defense witness violated the rule by remaining in the courtroom during the State's case-in-chief. As a result the witness was not permitted to testify.

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida granted Braswell relief in a habeas corpus proceeding. Upon the State's appeal, the Court of Appeals noted that the excluded testimony was crucial to Braswell's claim of self-defense (he had been convicted of aggravated assault). The Court stated that federal courts are reluctant to strike down valid state procedural rules, but held that application of the rule in question under these circumstances—where the excluded witness was Braswell's sole corroborating witness—violated his constitutional right to compulsory process. In affirming the district court, the Court relied on *Washington v. Texas*, *supra*.

The instant case is readily distinguishable from the *Washington* and *Braswell* cases. In the latter two cases, the state procedural rules in question operated to exclude competent evidence to the detriment of the defendant. Those rules were thus in direct conflict with the defendant's constitutional right to compulsory process.

In contrast, the rule governing the time for filing of motions for new trial in no manner pertains to the admission or exclusion of evidence or to the availability of witnesses. The State did not use this rule to arbitrarily prevent key defense witnesses from testifying, as occurred in *Washington*. Here, appellant chose not to call Totty at trial. The State did not prevent him from testifying.

Moreover, there was *no conflict* between the application of this procedural rule and appellant's right to compulsory process. The only conflict *possibly* extant was between appellant's Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment rights and Totty's Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. Although such apparent conflict between the constitutional rights of the co-defendants was not resolved until after appellant's trial, this did not implicate the Due Process Clause, particularly in light of the fact that there was no real conflict between such constitutional rights in the first place for reasons which follow.

The privilege against self-incrimination is personal to the witness and can be asserted only by him. See *Rogers v. United States*, 341 U.S. 479, 71 S.Ct. 814, 95 L.Ed. 1118 (1951); *United States v. Gomez-Rojas*, 507 F.2d 1213 (5th Cir. 1975). Not even the witness' attorney may claim the privilege for him, as Totty's attorney attempted to do here. *United States v. Moore*, 485 F.2d 1165 (5th Cir. 1973); *Ex parte Miers*, 124 Tex.Cr.R. 592, 64 S.W.2d 778 (1933); 8 Wigmore, Evidence, Section 2272 at 426 (McNaughton rev. 1961). Furthermore, the privilege may not be asserted in advance of questions actually propounded to the witness. It must be asserted with respect to particular questions, and in each instance the court must determine the propriety of the refusal to testify. *United States v. Malnik*, 489 F.2d 682 (5th Cir. 1974); *Farmer v. State*, 491 S.W.2d 133 (Tex.Cr.App.1973). Thus, "a simple blanket declaration by the witness that he cannot testify for fear of self-incrimination will not suffice to invoke the privilege . . .; the mechanism of the Fifth Amendment is not automatic or self-winding. . . . Once the Court satisfies itself that the claim is well-grounded as to the testimony desired, it may, in its discretion, decline to permit either party to place the witness on the stand for the purpose of eliciting a claim of privilege or to comment on this circumstance." *United States v. Gomez-Rojas*, supra, at 1219, 1220.

In the instant case, therefore, appellant's constitutional right to compulsory process was not in conflict with Totty's constitutional right against self-incrimination. The declarations made by Totty's attorney concerning what Totty might have done or would have done if he had been called to testify presented no problem of constitutional dimensions. Even Totty was not the exclusive judge of his right to exercise the Fifth Amendment privilege; the judge was entitled to determine whether any refusal to answer particular questions appeared to be based upon the good faith of the witness and was justifiable under all of the circum-

stances. *United States v. Gomez-Rojas*, supra; *Ex parte Butler*, 522 S.W.2d 196 (Tex. 1975).

The trial court never had the opportunity to make such a determination. Since Totty never invoked his Fifth Amendment privilege, appellant's right to compulsory process was not opposed. Accordingly, the court correctly overruled appellant's motion for new trial because it was filed after the time provided for filing such motions. See Article 40.05, supra. The rationale of the *Washington* and *Braswell* cases is not applicable under these circumstances.

Zerschausky v. Beto, 396 F.2d 356 (5th Cir. 1968), cert. denied 393 U.S. 1004, 89 S.Ct. 493, 21 L.Ed.2d 468 (1968), involved a proceeding on petition for writ of habeas corpus.

In April of 1963, Zerschausky had been convicted in a Texas district court for murder with malice and was sentenced to thirty years. Three potential witnesses at his trial had been charged as accessories and did not testify. Their charges were dropped shortly thereafter.

Zerschausky took no appeal from his conviction, but in 1966 he filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus in the same state district court which granted the writ returnable before this Court. We denied relief. *Ex parte Zerschausky*, 417 S.W.2d 279 (Tex.Cr.App.1967). Zerschausky then filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus in federal district court. The district court conducted a thorough factual investigation and thereafter handed down an extensive memorandum opinion denying relief. 274 F.Supp. 231 (Western District, Tex.1967).

On appeal, Zerschausky relief on *Washington v. Texas*, supra, which had held unconstitutional the Texas statutes denying defendants the right to call as witnesses anyone under indictment as accessories to the crime. The Court of Appeals determined that *Washington* was distinguishable and affirmed the district court.

The Court observed that no testimony by accessories was offered at Zerschausky's trial. The testimony which would have been given by the accessories would have conflicted in several respects with Zerschausky's theory of self-defense. The Court further observed that *Zerschausky had waited to complain until charges had been dropped against the accessories and until the statute of limitations had run.*

The Court reasoned from the foregoing that Zerschausky's failure to call the accessories to the stand was the result of a voluntary and conscious decision in trial strategy, not mere obedience to the Texas statute. Thus he had waived his constitutional right to compulsory process. See also *Henry v. Mississippi*, 379 U.S. 443, 85 S.Ct. 564, 13 L.Ed.2d 408 (1965); *Fay v. Noia*, 372 U.S. 391, 83 S.Ct. 822, 9 L.Ed.2d 837 (1963).

Likewise, in the present case appellant never offered the testimony of Totty at the hearing on the motion for new trial. Hence, his constitutional right to compulsory process was waived. The facts in this case withdraw it from the reach of *Washington v. Texas*, supra.

Even assuming the rule governing filing of motions for new trial did conflict in some manner with appellant's constitutional rights, it should be observed that not all state procedural rules must yield to an assertion of such rights. Otherwise, the decisions holding that failure to object to the violation of certain constitutional rights waives the error would be invalid. See, e.g., *Boulware v. State*, 542 S.W.2d 677 (Tex.Cr.App.1976), which held that failure to object to Witherspoon error waives the error; this case could not stand if all procedural rules in conflict with the assertion of constitutional rights must fall. Likewise, the contemporaneous objection rule would fall in such circumstances with regard to errors of constitutional dimension.

The Court has promulgated a new rule which could result in chaos for our criminal justice system. The rule

apparently can be used to invalidate any conviction where there is more than one defendant charged with the commission of an offense.

In the opinion on appellant's motion for rehearing, the majority observed that an accused may not call as a witness a co-defendant who will assert his privilege against self-incrimination. The majority then determined that the only requirement the accused must meet in regard to obtaining such testimony at the time of his trial is to ask the co-defendant's lawyer whether he (counsel) will advise the co-defendant to invoke the protection of the Fifth Amendment. This determination was erroneous for the reasons previously stated. The majority finally concluded that this Court will review a claim of newly discovered or newly available evidence as it stood at the time that appellant filed his motion for new trial based upon such evidence, even though the time for filing the motion had passed.

Under the majority's reasoning, an accused tried and convicted of murder may file a motion for new trial (even after his appeal apparently) claiming newly available evidence if the co-defendant has been convicted and if such conviction has become final. At that point, if the co-defendant is willing to give favorable testimony for the accused, then he is entitled to a new trial. If the accused was then inclined to reciprocate and give favorable testimony for the convicted co-defendant, the co-defendant would probably also be entitled to a new trial. Both defendants would have to be reprosecuted and, thus, the State would be back where it started since neither co-defendant could be compelled to testify for the other. Such a situation would clearly hinder the administration of justice.

For the reasons stated above, the State's motion for rehearing should be granted and the judgment affirmed.

51a

ONION, P. J., and TOM G. DAVIS and W. C. DAVIS,
JJ., join in this dissent.

VOLLERS, J., not participating.